

NEW YEAR HAMPERS.

We beg to Notify Customers that Assorted Hampers suitable for the Festive Season may be obtained from us at the following Reduced Rates:-

No. 1 HAMPER-\$38.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 Qt. Moet & Chandon Dry Imperial Champagne. | 1 Qt. Superb Tawny Port. |
| 1 Pt. Blackberry Brandy. | 2 Qts. St. Julien Claret. |
| 1 Pt. D.O.M. | 1 Qt. Old Brown Sherry, Bk. S. |
| 1 Qt. Martell's XXX Brandy. | 1 Qt. Furtan Old Tom or Dry Gin. |
| 2 Qts. King George IV White Label or Perfection Whisky. | 1 Qt. Burgundy. |
| | 1 Phial Pomeranzen Bitters. |

No. 2 HAMPER-\$34.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 Qt. Guilleminet Champagne. | 2 Qts. Tawny Dry Port. |
| 1 Pt. D.O.M. | 2 Qts. St. Julien Claret. |
| 1 Qt. Burgundy. | 1 Qt. Furtan Old Tom or Dry Gin. |
| 1 Qt. Martell's XXX Brandy. | 1 Qt. Vio de Pies: Sherry. |
| 2 Qts. King George IV White Label or Perfection Whisky. | 1 Phial Pomeranzen Bitters. |

No. 3 HAMPER-\$30.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 Qt. Burgundy. | 1 Qt. Engrand's XXX Brandy. |
| 1 Pt. Peppermint G. F. | 1 Qt. Amontillado Sherry W.S. |
| 1 Pt. D.O.M. | 1 Qt. Furtan Old Tom or Dry Gin. |
| 2 Qts. Superior Rich Old Port. | 2 Qts. Medoc Claret. |
| 2 Qts. King George IV White Label or Perfection Whisky. | 1 Phial Pomeranzen Bitters. |

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HONG KONG.

MEN'S TALK.



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THAT HIS CLOTHES SHOULD AT LEAST BE NEAT AND CLEAN. THE "WELL-GROOMED" LOOK OF A SUIT WHICH HAS BEEN SKILFULLY CLEANED AND PRESSED BY

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DEATH OF EMPEROR OF JAPAN.

PASSES AWAY AT HAYAMA.

END OF A LONG ILLNESS.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

Tokyo, December 28th.

His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor, died at 1.25 this morning.

The Empress, Prince Regent, Crown Prince, the Premier and others were present at the bedside when the Emperor breathed his last.

A sacred ceremony was held later at Hayama at which the Regent's accession to the Throne was formally announced.

Owing to the suspension of commercial business, it is feared the Emperor's death will strike a heavy financial blow, as the year-end is always very busy.

THE LATE EMPEROR'S CAREER.

Yoshihito, 122nd Emperor of Japan, third son of the Emperor Meiji (Mutsuhito), was born on August 31st, 1879, at Tokyo. The Prince was physically somewhat weak during his early life and Marquis Tadayasu Nakayama and Marquess Nakayama were appointed his guardians.

On the eighth anniversary of his birth-day the Prince was proclaimed heir apparent, the first and second sons of the Emperor Meiji having died in infancy. In September 1887 the Prince commenced attending the Peers' school and on November 25th, 1888, he was declared Imperial Crown Prince.

In 1893 the Crown Prince was appointed to the rank of a first lieutenant in the Imperial Army, and two years later left the Peers' School to continue his studies at the Palace under private tutors. In 1895 he was promoted to the rank of captain, and in 1897 took his seat, in accordance with prescriptive right, in the House of Peers.

In 1898 he was promoted to the rank of major of infantry and appointed a lieutenant-commander in the Imperial Navy.

On May 10th, 1900, the Crown Prince married Sadako, fourth daughter of the late Prince Mochitaka Kujō, and on April 29th, 1901, a son, Hirohito, was born, followed by a second son, Prince Yasuhito, on June 23rd, 1902, and a third, Prince Nobuhito, on January 3rd, 1903.

In 1903 the Crown Prince was promoted colonel in the army and captain in the navy and in 1909 lieutenant-general and vice-admiral.

On July 30th, 1912, at the moment of the demise of his father, the Crown Prince ascended the throne; but, owing to the national mourning, the formal ceremony of enthronement did not take place until November 1914.

In the following year a fourth son, Prince Takahito, was born on December 2nd.

The Late Emperor's Family.

Sadako, the Empress, was born on June 25th, 1884, and is the daughter of the late Prince Kujō, a noble of the 1st rank. Hirohito, Crown Prince, first son of the Emperor, was born on April 29th, 1901. He was proclaimed Crown Prince on September 9th, 1912, and appointed captain of the Army and lieutenant of the Navy in 1916, to be promoted to major and lieutenant-commander in 1919.

Prince Hirohito visited Europe in 1921, calling at Hong Kong on the way.

He was appointed Regent in November of 1921 on account of the Emperor's illness. His engagement to Princess Masako Kuni-no-Miya was formally sanctioned in June of 1922, and the marriage followed in due course.

Yasuhito, Chichibu-no-Miya, second son of the Emperor was born on June 23rd, 1902.

On his attaining his majority in 1922 he founded a new house by the Imperial order.

Prince Chichibu graduated from the Military Academy in July of 1922, and is attached to the Imperial Guards Division.

He is now on his way back from England, whither he went to study at Oxford University.

Nobuhito, Takamatsu-no-Miya, third son of the Emperor, was born on January 3rd, 1903. He is studying at the Naval Academy.

Takahito, Sumi-no-Miya, the fourth son of the Emperor, was born on December 2nd, 1915.

THE NEW EMPEROR.

Prince Hirohito's Career.

His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Hirohito, the eldest son of the Emperor, was born on April 29th, 1901. Leaving school in 1914, he continued his education under private tutors, history, geography, moral philosophy and the natural sciences claiming his particular interest, and in all these subjects he is deeply read. His interest in science and natural history is evidenced by the excellent collection now to be found in the small private museum founded by the Prince. His interest in the arts also has not been merely academic since he has proved himself a painter of some merit, his habit being to make little studies of picturesque landscapes, and any object of striking beauty or interest observed by him. He was given the title of Crown Prince in November, 1912, attained his majority in May, 1919, and was appointed Regent on November 28th, 1921.

European Tour.

Upon formal completion of his education, he set out on the European tour, in fulfilment of the wish of the late Emperor, and this he accomplished with marked ability and success. It was an enterprise by no means light. Indeed, in many respects, it was an arduous ordeal, and the Japanese people watched with as much anxiety as deep interest the progress of the Prince, and naturally were highly gratified at the manner in which he distinguished himself. A memorable incident of the tour was the Prince's reception at the Guildhall, where over

(Continued on next column).

CHRISTMAS SCREEN PROGRAMMES.

DRAMAS, FABLES AND COMEDIES.

Local cinema houses are showing some of the newest productions from Hollywood, in which Tommy Meighan, Viola Dana and Rin-tin-tin, the dog star, are being featured.

Queen's Theatre.

This theatre is showing "Stella Dallas" to-night and also on Wednesday night.

This picture is meant to show that the general belief that American mothers do not love their children is untrue. "Stella Dallas" is the story of a mother's sacrifice for her daughter. There is some extremely good acting by Belle Bennett and Lois Moran, as the mother. The film has brought these two actresses who were hitherto unknown to the forefront.

"Lady Windermere's Fan," an adaptation of Wilde's thirty-four-year-old play, will be screened from Thursday to Saturday.

This film depicts the methods employed by a woman in blackmailing her son-in-law. Irene Rich's portrayal of the woman with a past is excellent. May McAvoy, as the daughter, also does extremely well.

World Theatre.

Viola Dana, in "The Beauty Prize" will be shown to-night. The story first appeared in the Saturday Evening Post, and is by Nina Wilcox Putnam.

This film is an excellent mixture of comedy and drama showing the adventures of Connie Du-Bois, a New York girl. She makes the acquaintance of a Broadway magnate, who induces her to join a state beauty contest in order to get money to get expert surgical aid for her ailing father. Her sweetheart objects, but Connie goes right ahead and wins the state title and the money. Then trouble followed, and this provides the story of the film.

On Wednesday and Thursday, Tommy Meighan will be seen in "Back Home and Broke."

This film shows Tommy Meighan in the role of young man who is born at the top of the Social ladders, and his sudden drop to the bottom. The humours of the picture bubbles up from beginning to end, and reach a climax when Tommy turns the tables in a novel and exciting way.

Star Theatre.

From Thursday to Saturday, the Canine star, Rin-tin-tin, heads the cast in "Below the Line."

Kinty's role is that of a vicious dog who has been brutally trained for pit-fighting. Donald Coss and his sweetheart befriended him, and the dog becomes a brave and loyal friend.

1,000 distinguished guests gathered to give him greeting. In silence and in an atmosphere almost of solemnity the Prince was conducted to the platform from which addresses of welcome were delivered, and when his turn came to speak he responded with a brilliant speech, a performance which completely overcame any misgivings as to how he might meet the demands of so important an occasion. The tour was a personal triumph for the Prince and further established him in the esteem and popularity of his people.

As Regent.

Returning to Japan and entering on the important duties of Regent, Prince Hirohito at once manifested great energy and practical ability, applying himself very thoroughly to a variety of affairs, and constantly being in touch with men of authority in science, art and education as well as of government, and in intercourse of this kind he has shown personal ability of no mean quality and an inexhaustible interest in affairs of the day. The Prince is very keen on sport, and his principal recreations are riding and golfing. He has given a lead in encouraging a variety of games, supporting Western innovations and at the same time maintaining interest in the national games of Japan.

Prince Hirohito was very deeply concerned in the fate of the unfortunate victims of the great earthquake and spared no personal effort in visiting and comforting the people in various parts of the devastated areas and assisting in devising means for their help.

LOCAL JAPANESE OBSERVANCES.

NATIONAL FLAG HALF-MASTED FROM RESIDENCES AND OFFICES.

Throughout the Colony and on the warships in the Harbour, the Japanese flag has been flying at half-mast, in token of the sorrow felt locally at the sad news from Tokyo.

Representative Japanese residents held a meeting at the local Japanese Consulate-General on Sunday morning to consider the manner in which they would observe national mourning for the death of the Emperor.

A telegram was despatched to the Foreign Office at Tokyo expressing condolence.

It was decided at the meeting that until December 30th all Japanese would hoist their national flag from their residences and offices, etc.

For fifty days from the day of death, mourning bands will be worn by all Japanese residents.

On the day of the funeral, which has not yet been announced, there will be a meeting at the residence of the Japanese Consul-General (Mr. Y. Murakami). Expressions of sympathy were received from H.E. the Governor (Sir Cecil Clementi, K.C.M.G.), H.E. the General Officer Commanding the Forces in China (Major-General, C. G. Luard, C.B.) and H.E. the Commander-in-Chief of the China Squadron (Admiral Sir Edwyn Alexander Sinclair, K.C.B., M.V.O.).



The largest Circus that ever visited Hong Kong.

ISAKO'S CIRCUS

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between Signal Hill and Holt's Wharf.

SPLENDID PROGRAMME.

LOTS OF FUN FOR YOUNG AND OLD.

Matinees on Saturdays & Sundays at 3.00 p.m.

CHILDREN HALF PRICE.

Nightly Performances at 9.15

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(A.P.)

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Featuring nightly, "JACK CARTER'S PLAZA BERNADINE" for Dancing, combined with a Cabaret Entertainment De Luxe.

(American Plan) 100 rooms.
Rates:
Single with bath Mex. \$9.00 up
Double with bath Mex. \$15.00 up
Special Monthly Tariff M. \$175.00 up

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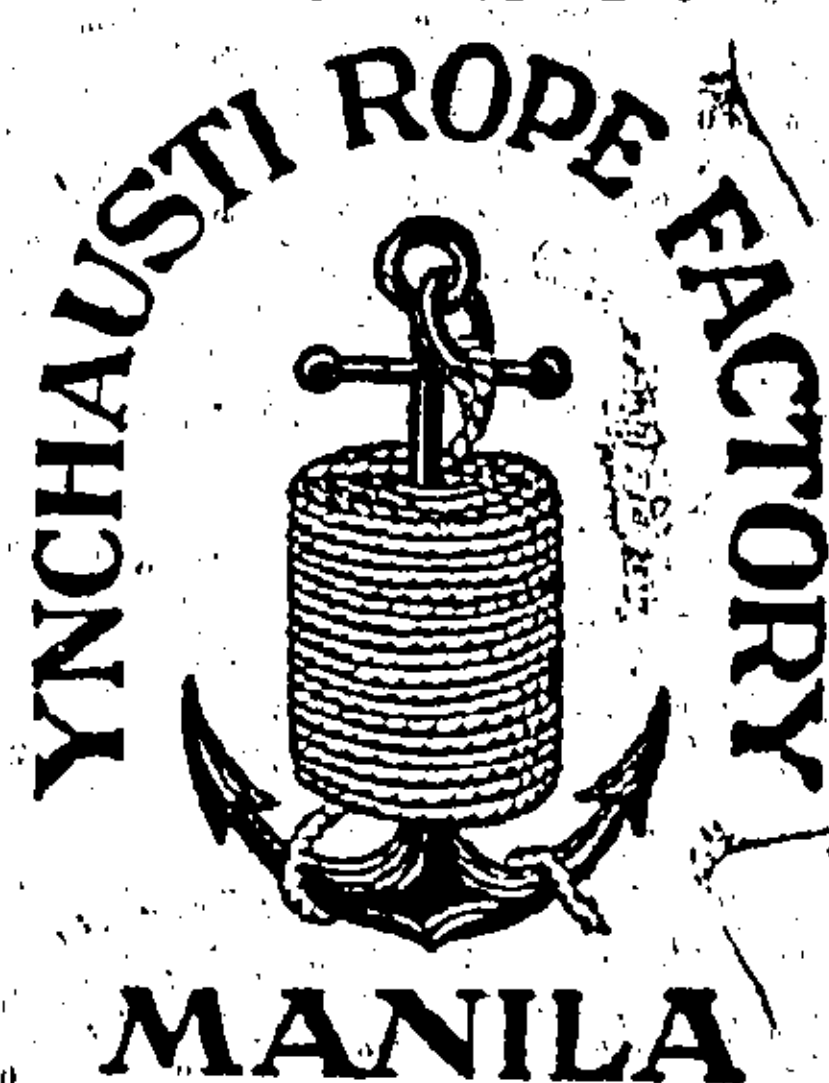
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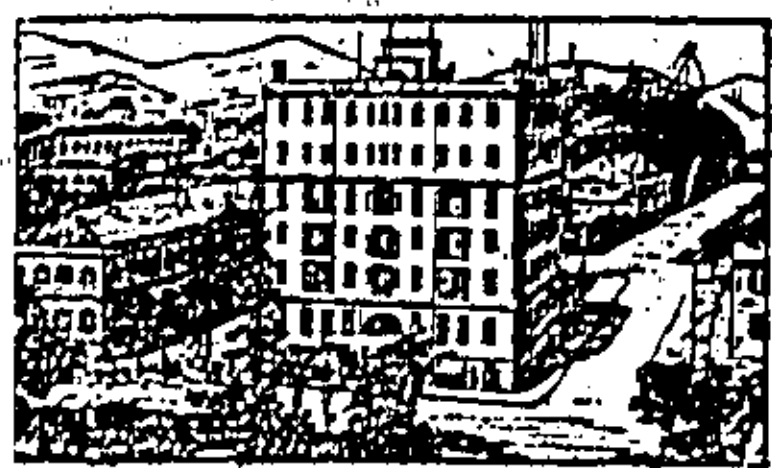
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KOWLOON HOTEL KOWLOON.

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Experienced European Manager.

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Daily Rates from \$5. Monthly from \$120.
Recently renovated throughout.

W. H. PERRY,
Manager.

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The days in which we live render
it more difficult to maintain a con-
dition of perfect health all the
time. The system gets run-down
with rush and worries.

Hence the necessity for a health-build-
ing medicine—one which will assist
the restoration of health and will build
up the system. Health-building is
greatly facilitated by the regular use
of Beecham's Pills.

A sound digestion and a perfect
assimilation are the foundations
of Good Health. You may have
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PILLS**

THE LOSS OF THE "LIENSHING."

NAVAL COURT OF INQUIRY HELD
PROCEEDINGS.

CHINESE WHO REFUSED TO HELP
THEMSELVES.

Called reports appeared last week
regarding the Naval Court of Inquiry
held at Shanghai concerning the loss
of the Indo-China S.N. Co.'s steamer
Lienshing, but we give the more detailed
account of the first sitting of the Court
from the *N.C. Daily News*:

The Naval Court of Inquiry summoned
under the provisions of Section 480 of
the Merchant Shipping Act to inquire
into the sinking of the Indo-China S.N.
Co.'s steamer *Lienshing* sat in H.M.
Supreme Court yesterday (Tuesday last).
The Court consisted of Capt. D. B. Le
Motté of H.M.S. *Despatch* (President),
Lieut.-Comdr. F. E. Chevallier, D.S.C.,
Mr. H. A. F. B. Archer, O.R.E. (H.M.
Vice-Consul), Capt. E. Monkman, Master
of the steamer *Soochow*, and Capt.
W. G. Lalor, Master of the steamer
Wanlin. Mr. A. C. Holborow appeared
for Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.,
agents for the I.C.S.N. Co., Mr. Ranald
C. McDonald for Capt. J. V. Simpson,
Master of the *Lienshing*, and Mr. J. R.
Jones for Mr. J. W. McCabe, the Second
Officer.

Among those present in court repre-
senting the owners were Mr. B. D. F.
Beith, senior partner in Messrs. Jardine,
Matheson & Co. (general managers of the
Indo-China S.N. Co.), Mr. E. F. Aucott,
shipping manager; Comdr. P. H. Rolfe,
R.N.R., the company's senior marine
superintendent in Hongkong, and Capt.
Gibb, assistant marine superintendent in
Shanghai.

The Captain's Evidence.

Capt. Simpson gave evidence that he
had been at sea for 30 years and a
Master for 7½ years. He had been with
Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., for
13½ years and had commanded the *Lien-
shing* since she was built in May, 1924.
He had been on the Shanghai-Tientsin
trip for a number of years and had done
it 23 times in the *Lienshing*. He never
had experienced a serious accident be-
fore. The Second Officer had been in
the *Lienshing* five months and done ten
or twelve voyages to Tientsin and back.

On this particular trip Weihaiwei was
their last port of call and they left there
at 3.55 p.m. on the 10th instant. Sha-
weishan Light was sighted at five
minutes past midnight on the 12th
instant and a course was set to pass it
about ten miles off. At 2 a.m. a position
was obtained off Sha-weishan, about 13
miles out. Witness stayed on the bridge
till about 2.15 a.m. and set a course
S. 6 E. by the compass and S. 10 E. true.
The North Saddle Light was slightly
on the port bow. He told the Second
Officer to steer the course, to take bear-
ings every quarter of an hour and not
to go any closer to the Amherst rock than
three miles. He was told to call witness at
3 o'clock. Five miles allowance was
made for the tide setting to the west-
ward. It was two hours before high
water. He expected to be due east of
the rock about 1½ hours later, as they
were making about 11½ knots. It was
a liberal allowance for the set. The tide
set at about three knots and five miles
was sufficient for a run of 1½ hours.
Three miles was ample margin for going
round the rock.

Dark but Clear.

He had every confidence in the Second
Officer. The night was very dark but
clear and lights could be seen quite
plainly. Witness went below and was
called at 3 a.m., finding then that the
ship was 10 or 11 miles away from her
position at 2 a.m. and 9 or 10 miles from
the rock. The course had been altered,
the Second Mate reporting that he had
not experienced any set to speak of.
Fixes were made at 3.15 and 3.30 and
the course then was quite safe, as they
were about three miles off. Another fix
was taken at 3.40 which did not fit in
with the others. They were further to
the west and witness went to take bear-
ings personally. Before he had time to
lay off any bearings on the chart, the
Second Mate reported rocks on the port
bow. Witness put the helm hard aport,
which was the only possible thing to do,
but as the ship was swinging she struck
the rocks about the No. 1 bulkhead, near
the No. 2 hold. He immediately stopped
the engines and ordered all hands on
deck.

A wireless call was sent for assistance
and within a few minutes the operator
reported that he had received replies
from the Shanghai station, which stated
that the signal had been broadcast and
the Colorado and a pilot boat were com-
ing up. Flares and rockets were sent
up until the end.

The next thing was to assemble the
passengers and get them away in the
lifeboats. Everything was quite orderly
and there was no panic. The ship
foundered about an hour later. There
was a slight easterly swell at the time.
The boats all were successfully lowered
except one which fouled a lifeline.
Rafts, also, were lowered and made fast
to the ship to take up people who might
not get into the boats.

The Cause of the Loss of Life.

Witness said that a number of Chinese
passengers left the boats and scrambled
back on to the ship, thinking that the
after part would remain above water
and that they would be able to keep dry.
They did this against orders, whereas if
they had remained in the boats there
would not have been any loss of life.
There had been regular lifeboat drill.
There were 27 or 28 foreign passengers
and about 130 or 140 Chinese. The ship
was amply equipped with life-saving ap-
paratus and it was all in very good
order, including the boats and rafts.
Lifebelts were easily accessible to all and
he showed many where they were. As
far as he could see every passenger had
one.



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From the Heart
To Your Heart

A tremendously big romantic
drama as new as tomorrow,
as old as time and as sym-
pathetic as a mother's caress.
Stella Dallas couldn't guide
her own heart, but will rule
yours in the story of her love
life that will stir the senses
with its human throbs.

TO-DAY

QUEEN'S

TO-DAY

WORLD

VIOLA
DANA
in
THE
BEAUTY
PRIZE

STAR

BELOW
THE LINE
and
GLOBE-TROTTERS

Answering the President, witness said
he was surprised when he found the
course had been altered, but he did not
again alter it, because the fixes that had
been made suggested that the course they
were on was perfectly safe. When the
boats were lowered they were filled in-
discriminately with people, no distinc-
tion between foreigners or Chinese.
Some Chinese came back to secure their
luggage and the officers did their best
to persuade them to return to the boats,
as luggage could not be taken. Some
Chinese actually were lowered back to the
boats by ropes. In many cases the
Chinese did not give any assistance in
the attempt to save their lives.

The Second Officer's Evidence.

Mr. John William McCabe, the Second
Officer, said he had been at sea for 19
years and 4½ years on the China Coast.
He had been with the company 2½ years.
He held a First Mate's certificate,
obtained in April, 1924. During the
war he served for three years with mine-
sweepers and was in the operations at
Zeebrugge.

Witness corroborated the instructions
said to have been given to him by Capt.
Simpson. After the captain returned to
the bridge witness twice took bearings

which did not arouse any suspicions, but
when at 3.40 a.m. he took another bear-
ing the captain did not seem quite satis-
fied and went to the standard compass
to check it. While the captain was tak-
ing the bearing witness saw the Amherst
Rocks slightly on the port bow, he in-
formed the captain and the course im-
mediately was altered, the helm being
put hard aport. The ship struck a
minute later.

Witness said that his subsequent work
was to superintend the lowering of the
boats. Nothing went wrong except that
the lifeline of one of the boats jammed
between the davit and the block, so that
the boat tilted when it reached the water.
The falls were cut with a hatchet but
before that could be done the boat had
filled. Buckets were thrown down and
if the Chinese only had used them to bale
the boat she would not have filled.
Ropes also were thrown over so that some
of the men could be hauled up.

He received every assistance from the
Chinese crew but the other Chinese would
not do anything.

A Chinese quartermaster, who was at
the wheel verified the course.

Capt. Simpson, recalled, said that be-
tween the standard and steering com-
passes there was a slight variation on a
southerly or southeasterly course, but
none on the south-west. The difference
was three or four degrees on the
southerly.

Mr. George Graham Patterson, Chief
Engineer, said he was in his bunk at
the time of the accident. He immedi-
ately went to the engine-room and found
everything there in order, even to the
entering of the tide the engines were
stopped. He made the required inspec-
tions and then, in response to the cap-
tain's orders, saw that the engine-room

and stokehold were cleared. Previously
the boilers were pumped full in order
to keep the lights going and to have
steam up, if it should be required. Wit-
ness then did what he could to assist on
deck. He also spoke of the difficulty of
getting the Chinese to go into the boats.
He did not see anyone without a lifebelt.

Capt. Walter Henry Smith, of the str.
Colorado said that, so far as he could see,
everything possible had been done and
was being done to save life.

Capt. John Joseph Kozerski, of the str.
Hua An, a passenger on the *Lien-
shing*, said that perfect order was main-
tained. Everyone he saw had a lifebelt.

The Master's Responsibility.
Capt. William Gibb, acting Marine
Superintendent, of Messrs. Jardine,
Matheson & Co., said that the ship was
fully equipped with all the requisite
life-saving apparatus according to the
Board of Trade standard.

The President—Are there any regula-
tions laid down respecting the presence
of the Master on the bridge?—The
Master is entirely responsible for the
management of his vessel.

There is no specific regulations as to
the Master being on the bridge in
pilotage waters.—There is no express re-
gulation except that the Master is en-
tirely responsible for the navigation of
his vessel.

Capt. Simpson, again recalled, said
that it was not his intention to pass the
Amherst Rocks three miles, exactly, but
not less. Had the set of the tide been
stronger, it probably would have been
necessary to haul the ship out to make
the course. At that time he saw no
reason to expect his instructions might
be misinterpreted.

This concluded the evidence and the
Court adjourned until the next day.



Pull-overs

— and —

Woollies



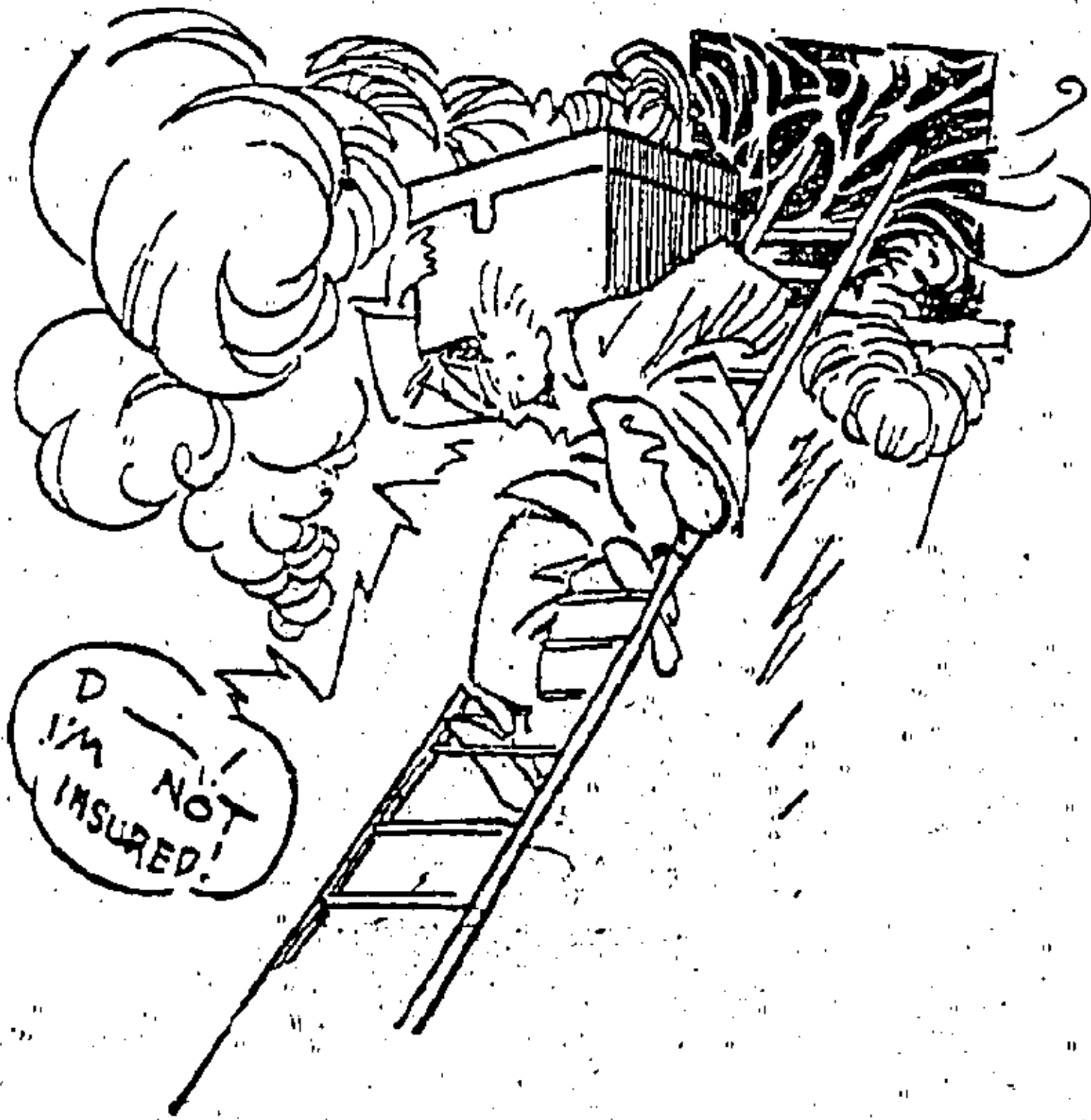
Scotch knit "Woollie" wear in plain colours and neat or gay, exclusive designs. Some have roll collars, but mostly with V necks in the pull-over style. The jerseys with button front all have V necks. All sizes from 34 to 48 chest measure at prices ranging from \$13.50 each.

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7 SEVEN BOTTLES 7
of the leading French Liquors for
\$20 TWENTY DOLLARS \$20

Cases containing the following in full size bottles will be delivered FREE at the purchaser's residence from TO-DAY until the 31st INSTANT.

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| 2 bottles Otard Brandy. | The liqueur can be selected |
| 1 " Cherry Brandy. | from the following: |
| 2 " Sparkling Wine. | Curaçao, Peppermint, |
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(A.P.)

CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE CATHEDRAL.

BISHOP OF LONDON'S SERMON.

CROWDED CONGREGATIONS.

ALLUSIONS TO LOCAL PROBLEMS.

Grey clouds and a temperature not much lower than often prevails in the South of England at this time of year, a big congregation, most of whom were in overcoats and furs, profuse decorations and the presence of the Bishop of London combined to reproduce, more closely than usual, the English Christmas atmosphere at St. John's Cathedral on Christmas morning. Every seat was taken for the 11 a.m. service and the congregation joined heartily in singing the chants and the familiar Christmas hymns.

Earlier in the day the Bishop of London had taken part in the Choral Eucharist at 8 a.m. when he consecrated the elements and gave the benediction. Other clergy taking part in this service were the Rev. C. H. Thomas, M.A. (Chaplain to the Bishop of London), the Rev. H. V. Copley Moyle and the Rev. G. E. S. Updell.

The setting chosen was Marbeck's Missa Solenne and the professional hymn was "While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night."

At the crowded service at 11 a.m. among those present were H.E. the Governor (Sir Cecil Clementi, K.C.M.G.), and Lady Clementi, Sir Henry Pollock, K.C., and Lady Pollock, E.E. Major-General C. C. Luard and Mrs. Luard, the Hon. Mr. W. T. Southern and Mrs. Southern, the Hon. Mr. H. T. Cressy and Mrs. Cressy, Col. and Mrs. Russell-Brown, Capt. A. C. Steele, M.C., A.D.C., and many naval and military officers.

The prayers were taken by the Rev. G. E. S. Updell, M.A., the lessons being read by the Rev. W. T. Featherstone, M.A., and the Rev. H. V. Copley Moyle, M.A.

THE SERMON.

The Bishop's sermon made a deep impression on all who heard it. It was admirably adapted to the congregation, being scholarly in tone, and, after a most able exposition of various aspects of the Christian message, touched with insight and a keen sense of realities upon conditions both in Hong Kong and China in general.

Obviously prepared with the utmost care it was delivered without manuscript or even notes.

We give the following summary of the salient points.

Clouds of the Pagan World.

The Bishop of London took as his text Titus Ch. III. v. 4. "And after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared."

"That short Chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to Titus had by a true instinct been connected with Christmas Day for hundreds of years," said the preacher, "and if one wanted the Christmas message summed up in a sentence what better one than that could be found."

I wonder how many here now fully realise the dark and fearful clouds that overhung the human race before the first Christmas. It was not that there was no light. We had the record of the Spartans who laid down their lives at Thermopylae, and of Socrates calmly drinking the poisoned cup because an inner voice told him there was another and a better world.

But there was the never-ending fear of death in the pagan world. How the Greeks feared the jibbering shades of the other world! They loved this world, with its sunshine and happiness and there was nothing beyond.

Then there were the ideas of the nature of God. There was the fear of evil spirits in every hill and valley. That fear lasted to-day over the heathen world, in Africa, and even in Japan. There was the idea of God as the jealous God, who was jealous of human happiness, who must be placated with sacrifice. And where there was a low idea of God a low moral life was found in the community—a degradation of woman, an acceptance, as we find in Juvenal of that which we consider intolerable.

The Riddle of Existence.

Christmas was a message of the kindness of God. It showed that the fear of death was founded upon a mistake. This life was happy on the whole and good to live, but its happiness was no thing to the life to come. Once when arguing with Mrs. Annie Besant, she had said: "You teach where the tree falls let it lie." Of course, they taught nothing of the kind. "You," he replied, "bring us back to earth, but we teach a progression onwards to a far better state."

Often the question was asked why did God make us? And as far as he could see there was but one answer: God who was himself perfectly happy made others that they should share that happiness.

God was, firstly, the supreme giver. Sometimes He seemed to take away, but it was only to give back in more perfect form.

Then at Christmas one thought of the humility of God. His coming had been expected as king or prophet but not as a helpless baby. God meant from eternity to come to earth and He knew that to come to earth meant to come to die. If men could lay down their lives for a cause, then if God on earth did not die they would be greater than Him, which was inconceivable.

God was the Father with the Mother's heart. It was part of the infancy of God that you could in prayer claim His whole attention. God as Browning put it in "Boy and the Angel" could "miss my little human praise" from each individual. If this were true then man's ingratitude was a terrible thing. The Christian's life should be one of praise for what God had given.

Cathedral and Club.

Here and at Shanghai he found the cathedral crowded, but he was told that normally both at Hong Kong and Shanghai on a Sunday the cathedrals were only half filled. But the object of worship was God's praise—not the listening to the sermon or the music. This, owing to many engagements was the one opportunity he had of speaking to them and his one hope was to carry to their hearts this message of the life of praise. There was a delightful club in the Colony where he had been most kindly and hospitably entertained, but the Cathedral should be the great spiritual club of the community.

The Missionary Field.

They were beginning to find out what the world owed to the missionaries. In a recent Royal Commission Report on the problem of Africa, the aid of the missionaries had been advised. It was the missionary who was really in touch with the native and it was through the missionary alone that we could win them.

In China the missionaries took their lives in their hands. He appealed for support of these men. Some in the past, and even now, might be narrow in their ideas, but they were the outposts of Christianity in dangerous places.

Speaking of the Purity of God the Bishop emphasised that in purity of life was the response to God's love. And it was in places like this that young men's purity was tested. In England, at their public schools, and under the influence of their homes and their mothers it was easy. Out here came the testing, where young men were alone and many were unable to marry.

In conclusion the Bishop made an appeal for an echo of God's kindness in more kindness to each other.

Kindness was a world need, especially in these distant places—to the man in difficulties, to the new comer. He had found it in an astonishing degree at Honolulu—that Heaven on Earth—where seven nations lived together in friendship without class or racial antagonisms. He recalled recently walking down one of their lovely groves, a Chinese and a Japanese clergyman on either side of him. "We work together as brothers," the latter said, and in that kindness was the response to God's kindness towards us.

UNION CHURCH.

At the Union Church, Kennedy Road, on Christmas morning there was, as usual, a special service. The Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald (the Pastor) preached an eloquent Christmas sermon.

A feature of the service was the singing of Christmas hymns which were led by the Band of 2nd Battalion, the King's Own Scottish Borderers.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

At St. Peter's Church, West Point, on Christmas morning there was Holy Communion celebrated at 9 a.m. and at 11 a.m. there was Sung Eucharist.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

Long before midnight on Christmas Eve the carol singers of St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, were heard in the streets and the various clubs. They attracted a great deal of attention and were well received everywhere they went, generous donations for charitable purposes being freely given.

St. Andrew's Church was well filled for the usual Christmas services and decorations were most attractive.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. G. Reginald Lindsay, M.A., Vicar, who took as his text John XIV. 2—"My Father's House."

In the course of his address Mr. Lindsay said:—

Of all the institutions of our social life none is more treasured by the average Briton than the institution of the home.

There are many things repugnant in the creed of Communism and one of the most repulsive is the attempt to shatter the home.

This is our season of goodwill. This is the time for showing kindly thought and giving gifts. We have fixed it to coincide with the rebirth of the Sun. After the shortest days of winter are past and the invincible King of Day begins to mount again the throne of his power, then we know the languishing world has "taken the turn" and the revival of nature is assured.

So this is not only our season for showing kindness and giving gifts but for tracing all kindness to its heavenly source and rejoicing in Love's gift.

Old Scrooge must be converted and his withered heart be made to blossom into generous kindness.

SUNDAY'S SERVICES.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON AT KOWLOON.

The atmosphere of Christmas was maintained in the churches throughout the Colony on Sunday.

The Bishop of London preached at St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, in the morning and took as his text: "The most mighty God has spoken." The Bishop said it gave him the greatest pleasure to speak to a congregation in his mother tongue. There had been many places during his tour where he had to speak to churchgoers through an interpreter. He referred to the greatness of God's power and as evidence of God's beauty of mind there was the beautiful view of Hong Kong or the lovely land of Japan and other countries.

Emphasising the necessity of making an early decision in regard to religious matters, he said he had come across many cases in America where children had been told by their parents to wait until they were nineteen and then choose their religion. "I call this perfectly wicked," added the Bishop. "The children might as well be told to use their muscles until they are nineteen."

Referring to a conversation he had with another eminent Church dignitary before he left Home on his world tour, the Bishop said he told him that he had two mottoes. "Take one day at a time and trust the Holy Spirit to see you

(Continued on next column)

THE BISHOP OF LONDON.

HIS WEEK-END ACTIVITIES.

VISITS CANTON.

The Bishop of London spent a very active week-end. As reported elsewhere, he preached at St. John's Cathedral on Christmas morning, and at St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, on Sunday morning. Apart from these services, his Lordship visited the Diocesan Girls' School at Kowloon, and the Blind Home both on Sunday afternoon. At each place he was conducted over the buildings, expressed much interest in all he saw, and had a cheery word of greeting and encouragement.

Yesterday the Bishop of London paid a visit to Canton and spent an interesting and enjoyable day.

This morning he addressed the Quarterly Service of the Mothers' Union in St. John's Cathedral, and at 4.15 p.m. he attended the Victoria Diocesan Association Reception and at Home at the City Hall. In the evening he will be the guest of honour at the Oxford and Cambridge Society annual dinner at the Hong Kong Hotel.

To-day's Reception.

In connection with this afternoon's "At Home" at the City Hall, tea will be served at 4.15 p.m. and the meeting will follow at 5.15, lasting to 6 o'clock.

The speakers will be H.E. the Governor (Sir Cecil Clementi, K.C.M.G.), the Right Rev. C. R. Duppuy, Mr. J. M. Wong (representing the Hong Kong Chinese Church Body) and the Bishop of London.

By kind permission of the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir Edwyn Alexander Sinclair, K.C.B., M.V.O., the band of H.M.S. Hawkins will play selections.

To-morrow the Bishop of London celebrates Holy Communion at St. Peter's Church at 7.30 a.m. Later in the morning he will visit the Diocesan Boys' School and the Victoria Home, Kowloon, en route to Fanning, where he will be accompanied by Col. E. D. Matthews (Secretary of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club), Col. Robertson (Secretary of the Hong Kong Club) and his chaplain.

After lunch and a round of golf at Fanning, his Lordship will return to Hong Kong and deliver a devotional address at St. John's Cathedral at 8 p.m.

On Thursday morning the Bishop of London will make a tour of various educational institutions in the Colony, and will be the guest of honour at a tiffin given by Old Marlburians. Later he attends an "At Home" to Chinese workers in St. John's Cathedral Hall, and at 9.30 p.m. delivers an address to men only at the Cathedral.

On Friday he visits Macao, and will be the guest of honour in the evening at a Chinese dinner arranged by the Hong Kong Chinese Church Body.

His Lordship leaves for Singapore on the Hakone Maru on Saturday.

THE DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL.

On Christmas Eve about 20 boys of the Diocesan Boys' School went to the Bishop's House, St. Paul's College where the Bishop of London was dining and sang carols accompanied by handbells.

Mr. F. Mason conducted and at the beginning and end of the singing Mr. E. C. Thomas played a peal on eight tubular bells. It is hoped that the School will develop the art of bell ringing.

On Christmas Day the Headmaster and Mrs. Featherstone, the resident staff and the thirty-six boarders remaining in school for Christmas had tiffin together, and later, with half of the School servants, went to the Circus at Kowloon, an event which was greatly enjoyed.

MORE SNATCHERS AT WORK.

TWO LADIES LOSE THEIR HAND-BAGS.

During the holidays, two more cases of bag snatching have been reported to the Police.

Mrs. Cunha, a Portuguese lady, residing at 5, Humphrey's Avenue, Kowloon, had her handbag snatched on Friday. She was going up the stairs from the street, when a Chinese crept up from behind and seized her bag. The value, including the money in the bag, was \$38.

Another victim was a Chinese married woman, who lost her bag and \$77 near the Dairy Farm on Sunday.

through," and "Look straight into the light and you will always have the shadow behind."

Carol Service.

In the afternoon a Young People's Service was held at St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, on Sunday. In the evening the Rev. W. Walton Rogers, M.A. occupied the pulpit, and the service was noted for its carols, and the organ recital by Mr. Rupert Baldwin.

At Other Churches.

At St. John's Cathedral, the Rev. H. C. Thomas (Chaplain to the Bishop of London) preached at the morning service, and also occupied the pulpit at the evening service. Carols were sung at these services.

At the Union Church, Kennedy Road, "Good Tidings to the Poor" was the subject of the sermon preached on Sunday morning by the Pastor, the Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald. At the evening service, the Pastor, again preached, his sermon being on "The Children of Hope."

The collections were devoted to the New Territories Mission. On Sunday afternoon a P.S.A. meeting was held at which an address was delivered by Dr. A. D. Hocking.

A Social.

Last evening a happy gathering, assembled at the Union Church Hall, the occasion being a Christmas Party arranged for members and friends. A thoroughly enjoyable time was spent.

Christmas Eve, and the morning of Christmas Day saw three fires in Canton. The one at Water Melon Garden, the former Headquarters of the Canton Merchants, destroyed six barracks, while another at Chung Shui Ho, involved 24 buildings. In a fire at the Sane Hon Hotel on Christmas Day two people were burned to death and eight were injured.

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Fires.

ANTI-CHRISTIAN PARADES.

NO SERIOUS TROUBLE.

PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH STRIKE COMMITTEE.

THREE FIRES IN CANTON.

[FROM OUR CHINESE CORRESPONDENT.]

A suggestion is being made in Canton to wind up the Strike Committee. Some have even proposed to stop the committee's activities altogether by January 1st.

The anti-Christian demonstrations in Canton on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day passed off without any serious trouble. No non-political institution participated, and the claim of the Kuomintang Press that 20,000 persons joined in the outcry against the Church and the Missions should be taken with a grain of salt.

On Christmas Day at noon there was an anti-Christian meeting at the Sun Yat Sen University, and among other student bodies represented were those of the Kuomintang Central School of Political-Military Science at Whampoa and the Police Training School. The small number of persons at the parade was attributed by the committee in charge to "uncomfortable" weather conditions.

Reports from Swatow indicate that the anti-Christian activities there on Christmas Day did no harm. The Church of Christ in China at Swatow cancelled its public Christmas entertainment in order to avoid a repetition of last year's occurrences when several meetings were interrupted.

Detectives Disarmed.

The Canton Police on December 24th disarmed 40 members of their Detective Squad, an organization nearly 175 strong charged with the special duty of espionage prevention. Information had reached General Chien Ta Chün, the newly appointed Chief of Police, that some members of this squad had been abusing their privileges, and he gave orders for some of them to be disarmed and disbanded. As the members of the force had equipped themselves with their own arms, each dismissed man was given from \$70 to \$200 for the weapons taken away from him.

Kuomintang party leaders in Canton have circulated the report that some 13,000 troops of Yunnan, under General Lo Shih Chang, have routed against Tuchun Tang Chi Yao of that Province in favour of Dr. Sun Yat Sen's Party.

The freight and passenger junk service between Hong Kong and Shekai, suspended since December 18th on account of Kuomintang troops commandeering the junks for troop transportation, is being resumed; the Kuomintang Army having returned the junks to their owners.

The installation of the Kuomintang Headquarters at Wuchang, in Hupeh Province, will formally take place on January 1st, the 15th anniversary of the inauguration of the late Dr. Sun Yat Sen as Provisional President of the Republic at Nanking.

China Merchants Vessels.

Although the Provincial Kuomintang in Canton has formally approved of the application of the consignees in Canton to unload the cargo held by the Seamen's Union on board the s.s. Kwonglee, Hsinwah, and Shuntai, the labour interests concerned are still endeavouring to prevent the unloading being carried out. The Seamen's Union, it may be recalled, captured five of the steamers of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company in retaliation for the refusal of the Company to grant compensation to seamen who had died while on service along the Yangtze and to dismiss non-union sailors. Two steamers are being detained at Swatow. The consignees of cargo at Canton contend that the difficulties between the Company and the seamen should not involve them. It is thought that the Military and the Police in Canton may use force to protect the interests of the consignees.

Hospitals.

To guard against any possible interference with the service of the Fong Pin Hospital, the Police have now doubled the watch there. The professional labour leaders are trying to force the hospital employees into another strike. The strike forced on the workers by their leaders the other day caused considerable hardship and suffering to the patients of the hospital who were left without food, attention, and service.

The John G. Kerr Hospital for the insane in Canton may have to close or turn out all public patients, for financial reasons, unless the efforts now being made to raise funds to maintain it prove successful. Since the Kuomintang's return to power in Canton, there has been no appropriation for the Hospital, notwithstanding the promise of \$3,000 a month made by previous administrations. Now nearly \$100,000 are due to the hospital.

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Fires.

YULE TIDE IN HONG KONG.

SEASONABLE WEATHER.

BISHOP OF LONDON AS GUEST OF HONOUR.

Seasonable weather, not the Christmas card snow, that is seldom a reality even at Home, but a sharp nip in the air and a temperature that made a blaze in the grate welcome, played its part in making this year's Yuletide an extremely successful and happy one. The Colony also had the privilege of having in its midst the deservedly most popular of English prelates, Dr. A. P. W. Ingram, K.C.V.O., D.D., LL.D., Bishop of London. It is perhaps not irreverent to say that a bishop has generally been regarded as a distant and awe-inspiring personality, like a headmaster, and while the Bishop of London would be the last to lay claim to the staidness of the present Archbishop of Canterbury, the deep scholarship of, for instance, Bishops Gore or Hensley Henson he has undoubtedly done more than any other individual to "humanise" the bench of Bishops. This is not to say that he lacks dignity or stoops to the artifices of the demagogue. Those who saw him in the Cathedral arrayed in cope and mitre and heard his scholarly sermon would fully agree that few more impressive and thoughtful personalities could be imagined. The Bishop by his geniality and kindness to all, combined with an honest outspokenness, has proved himself the best ideal ambassador of his church and Christmas visitor to this Colony.

To revert to mundane affairs a lightening in the economic clouds also bore its part in the success of the season.

The hotels, clubs, other public institutions and many private residences were gaily decorated with holly, chains and greenery in keeping with the season, and red shaded lamps bore their part in making many an interior look delightfully cosy. The various stores of the Colony were well depleted of toys and other Christmas gifts by the evening of Christmas Eve, and the European children of the Colony had a merry time with Christmas parties and the shower of gifts which met their gaze on Christmas morning.

Besides the Cathedral the other Churches—St. Andrew's, Kowloon, and the two Union Churches, etc., were filled with Christmas morning worshippers; and the earlier Holy Communion services were also well attended.

The collections at the Cathedral were in aid of the Diocesan Boys' and Girls' Schools and Orphanages.

The Army and Navy.

Christmas Day is always a great festival for the Navy and Army, discipline being considerably relaxed in a way only possible in Services where traditions and efficiency are at the highest. The masts of vessels of the Squadron in port were decorated and the ward-rooms and messes on board the ships were also very attractively arrayed, the spirit of the Yuletide being predominant everywhere. Murray Barracks, Wellington Barracks and Mount Austin Barracks, housing the Borderers, and also Whitfield Barracks, Kowloon, and the military establishments at Stonecutters were all centres of revelry and fun-making. The Services were well looked after and plenty of good cheer (including liquors and solids), were to the fore.

There were many sporting fixtures for the holidays. The usual Christmas meeting at Fanling, extended from Christmas Eve until yesterday, the results of which will be published in due course. The golfers trains on Christmas Day, Sunday and yesterday were well filled.

Sporting Fixtures.

There was cricket on Christmas Day, Sunday and yesterday, reports of which we also publish. On Christmas Day and yesterday there were the international football matches between China and Portugal, and England and Scotland in the Sunday Herald Charity Cup competition.

The European Y.M.C.A., Kowloon, had very cheerful Yuletide gatherings the building being gaily decorated, and members entertained men of the Services as their guests to a special mid-day dinner, on Christmas Day. This was followed by football and hockey match against Naval teams in the afternoon. Yesterday many members of the Y.M.C.A. undertook a walk to Lion Rock.

The annual race of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club for the Potts' Challenge Cup was held on Sunday. The course being to Macao and back, a distance of 71 miles.

The Fanling Hunt held a successful paper chase yesterday, which was arranged by Mrs. R. J. Paterson.

There were Boxing Day Carnivals at the Hong Kong and Repulse Bay Hotels (which will be repeated on New Year's Eve).

ROYAL ARTILLERY CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.

The Royal Artillery Children's Christmas Party was held in the R.E. Theatre, Wellington Barracks, on the afternoon of December 28th. On arrival, the children of the Regiment were met by Father Christmas who introduced them to the various games, such as Aunt Sally, Shuttle, Skittles, Electric Shock, etc. The Shuttle and Aunt Sally were most popular and caused considerable amusement, both to the children and also to the grown-ups. The games were followed by tea, when everyone did justice to the excellent fare provided.

After tea came the distribution of presents from the decorated Christmas Tree. The distribution was made by Mrs. Robinson, wife of Lieut.-Col. Robinson, R.A., Father Christmas also assisted. On the conclusion, three hearty cheers were given to Mrs. Robinson, who was also presented with a pretty basket of flowers.

(Continued on next column.)

CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE CIVIL SERVICE.

A HAPPY GATHERING.

There was a large and happy gathering of parents and children at the Civil Service Club yesterday afternoon on the occasion of the annual Christmas tree party. The Christmas tree, laden with gifts was placed in the middle of the tennis courts, the environs of which were decked with national flags. The band of H.M.S. Hermes was present, and added to the enjoyment.

Tea was first partaken of, and then the children hurried to the hoopla boards, the coconut shies and the bran tub. Races were then held for boys and girls, and so many were the entrants and so near the finishes, that the judges had difficulty in choosing the winners. Tiny tots whom one would imagine had not long since begun to walk were among the runners.

Three or four of the members entertained the gathering also. Three of them were garbed as clowns, and one as a costermonger. They ran races with the children, played leap-frog, frolicked, danced and rolled on the grass. A stranger might well have thought they had come from the circus in Kowloon.

The afternoon was sunny, and everybody was sunnily disposed. And how else could it be amongst such a crowd of merry, pretty children.

Mr. H. H. Rose made an ideal Father Christmas. He seemed to be of the right build. He was just as Father Christmas is visualised in the mind of children. Members of the committee took the presents from the tree, and Father Christmas doled them out to Mrs. J. R. Wood, who in turn passed them on to small bobbed-haired lassies and spick-and-span laddies and wee babies carried in their mothers' arms. It was a pleasant scene.

It was a great success, and praise is due to the committee responsible for the arrangements. The committee comprised Messrs. R. R. Wood, A. T. Strange, R. Smith, B. Maughan, J. Deakin, and L. E. Longbottom (secretary); whilst Messdames Longbottom, Maughan and Hollidge those the presents, and did it well.

Sports Prizes.

After the gifts for the children had been distributed Mrs. J. R. Wood presented prizes to the Club members who had been successful in the lawn bowls and lawn tennis competitions during the past season.

The prize-winners were as under:—Bowls.—Championship, Mr. Oswick; 2, Mr. Deakin; 3, Mr. Maughan. Handicap.—1, Mr. Oswick; 2, Mr. Hollidge. Mr. Lambie and Mr. Brown have to play a deciding game for the third prize.

Handicap Doubles.—1, Messrs. Lambie and Hollidge; 2, Messrs. Tatchell and Becker. Noa-Prize-Winners.—1, Mr. Davies; 2, Mr. Strange. Mr. Carr and Mr. Hollidge have to play for the third prize.

Mr. Maughan was the bowls representative.

Tennis.—Championship, Dr. Valentine; Runner-up, Major Willson.

Handicap "A" (Gents).—1, Mr. R. White; Runner-up, Mr. A. White.

Handicap "B" (Gents).—1, Mr. Jones; Runner-up, Mr. Harper.

Ladies' Singles.—1, Mrs. Bradbury; 2, Mrs. R. R. Wood.

Ladies' Doubles.—1, Messdames Bradbury and Massey; 2, Messdames Williams and Bennett.

Mixed Doubles.—1, Mr. and Mrs. Bradbury; 2, Mr. A. White and Mrs. Williams.

Mr. R. R. Wood was the tennis representative.

Cheers and Goodnight.

Mr. R. R. Wood thanked Mrs. J. R. Wood for giving away the prizes, and after presenting her with a bouquet of chrysanthemums called for cheers for her. He also paid tribute to Mr. Justice Wood's work as president of the Club.

Mr. Justice Wood speaking on behalf of Mrs. Wood said that she desired him to tell them that it gave her great pleasure to be present to distribute the prizes.

Mr. Justice Wood also said that it was the most successful gathering of its kind they had had at the Club, and praise was due to the Christmas Tree Committee and particularly to the ladies, Messdames Longbottom, Maughan and Hollidge for the work they had put in. He called for cheers for the three ladies and there was a hearty response.

The band struck up the National Anthem, and the children hugging their gifts went home with their mothers as the sun went down.

THE AMUSEMENTS.

For those at a loose end, or wanting a change from parties and dances, there was plenty of variety to be found at the local cinemas. Special programmes, for the Yuletide season were shown at the Queen's, World and Star Theatre, and the change made throughout this week will be equally attractive. There will also be some excellent programmes at our local theatres during the New Year holidays, particulars of which will be announced in due course.

Then there was Isako's circus at Kowloon, which put on an entirely changed programme for the holiday period. These entered especially for the children at the matinee performances which were held each day. The performance provided was exceptionally attractive.

The party then settled down to a cinema programme, wherein Charlie Chaplin and Felix the Cat delighted the children.

The proceedings were graced by the presence of Lady Clementi, Mrs. Luard, wife of the G.O.C. the Troops, S.O.C., The C.R.A. Lieut.-Col. W. A. Edmeades, D.S.O., R.A., and officers and ladies of the Regiment.

Before the party broke up, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Committee for the way in which the entertainment had been carried out.

TWO CARNIVAL DANCES.

REVELRY AT HONG KONG AND REPULSE BAY HOTELS.

The Boxing night carnivals arranged at the Hong Kong and Repulse Bay Hotels last night proved as usual most successful. Both functions were well attended, and at the Hong Kong Hotel, the accommodation was by no means sufficient to cope with all those who had wished to be present, and tables could have been sold twice over.

Some of the dancers wore fancy costumes, but this or evening dress was optional. The scenes presented, especially at the Hong Kong Hotel, were very gay. Merriment, gaiety, and light-heartedness reigned supreme from the opening of the evening until the close of the programme.

The carnival at the Hong Kong Hotel was held this year on the Roof Garden and there were about 220 present in contrast to the 450 who were last year accommodated on the big room on the first floor, which was, of course, destroyed in the fire last New Year. The management could have sold at least 500 tickets this year and hundreds of would-be guests had to be refused, but as an alternative they were given the opportunity of booking for the Carnival dance at the Repulse Bay Hotel, which many did. The result was that on the other side of the Island there were between 300 and 400 guests present.

The Roof Garden reservations have long ago been sold out, for the New Year's Eve carnival, and there will be well over 400 attending the similar function at the Repulse Bay Hotel that night. Special late Peak Trams were run last night, and will be on New Year's morning at 1.30 and 2 o'clock. There will also be special motor coaches to the Hong Kong Hotel and Peak Hotel from Repulse Bay Hotel at 1.15 a.m. at the end of this week.

The Carnival commenced last night with dinner at 8 o'clock and dancing continued until 1 a.m. The same arrangement will apply on New Year's Eve. Music was played by the Hong Kong Hotel orchestra.

The Decorations.

The decorations were especially attractive at the Hong Kong Hotel Roof Garden, where the lighting effects were much enhanced by the shaded lamps on the party tables arranged round the room. The decorations were made out of coloured crepe paper. Chains hung across the ceiling and down the centre were hung streamers of many hues as shades over the centre lights. From the middle of the roof was suspended a huge red paper bell, decorated with roses and petals, and silver lettering. The chains were also worked in attractive paper roses.

The scheme was original and picturesque, and the decorations will remain the same for the New Year's Eve function.

Eight Days' Work.

Some idea of the trouble taken over the decorations can be judged when it is mentioned that it took eight days to make them, and seven hours to hang them. The work was entirely carried out by the European staff of the Hong Kong Hotel, who had to cut every design with scissors by hand and work each little piece into the pattern designed.

Much credit and thanks is due to Mrs. C. Darlington Wilson, the representative of Messrs. Dennison's for success of the scheme. For it was this lady who designed the decorations and instructed and supervised the staff in carrying them out.

G.O.C. Dance.

Following the Married's Single match at the Craigengower Cricket Club, yesterday, the usual tea dance was held, this function extending from 5.30 to 8.30 p.m. It was well attended by members, their wives and friends, and the dance music was supplied by the Brunswick Orchestra.

CHINESE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS.

A POPULAR Y.M.C.A.

The Chinese Y.M.C.A., Bridges Street, was the centre of Hong Kong Chinese Christmas entertainments during the last few days, and many Churches and Schools have used the fine stage and auditorium for Christmas gatherings. Non-Christians as well as Christians have been welcome to all these pleasant gatherings. The Chinese Y.W.C.A., the St. Paul's Church, the Men's Department, the Day and Night Schools of the Association also gave Christmas tree parties there during the last few days and evenings.

Basket Ball Champions from Canton.

The Pui Ching Baptist Academy sent a basket ball team from Canton to Hong Kong during the Christmas holidays. The Canton boys defeated all the best basket ball teams during their visit, and among the teams who lost to the Canton Five were the Chinese Y.M.C.A. and the Ying Wa College, the local open league and school champions.

Football: Unity Needed.

Football was a leading topic at the Chinese tea-houses and clubs during the last few days, and China's victory over the Portugal gave general satisfaction.

The team which won on Christmas Day, at Happy Valley was a full strength South China team and what might the league positions of the Chinese teams had not the unfortunate split have taken place "has again been a subject of discussion among the Chinese who turned out in thousands to watch the contest on Christmas Day.

The officers of the Chinese Young Men's and Young Women's Association, and their relatives will have a joint Christmas dinner this (Tuesday) evening at the Chinese Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium.

THE KWANGTUNG KUOMINTANG.

JANUARY 1ST CONVENTION ASSEMBLING.

MR. SUN FO'S FULMINATIONS.

Up to yesterday more than 70 delegates from the different districts have arrived at Canton for the coming Provincial Convention of the Kuomintang of Kwangtung which opens on January 1st. So far, most of the arrivals are said to be friendly to the Bolshevik or "Red" clique of the Party. The "Reds," being mostly workers and farmers, will probably be outvoted in the coming convention by the politicians who are parading as "anti-Reds."

General Li Tsai Hsin, the Officer Commanding the Troops in Kwangtung and virtually the real leader of the Party in the Southern Capital, has formally denied that he is going to dissolve the Kuomintang Workers' Delegates Conference, which is the most influential subsidiary organisation of the Communists Party in Canton. This announcement is being regarded in Chinese political circles as most important, for it means that the "Reds" are to be accorded the same opportunity as before the supposed change of Kuomintang policy in Canton following the departure of the chief leaders for Wuchang.

With regard to a recent Press report in which it was stated that Mr. Sun Fo, son of the late Dr. Sun Yat Sen, during a speech in Hankow, on December 20th, had said that the Kuomintang had arranged with their brothers in India and other places unsuspected by the British to rise with them when the Kuomintang would give the signal, several local leaders of the Party, when pressed for an opinion, declared that they did not believe that Mr. Sun's statement had anything in it. In Chinese circles, and in the Kuomintang Party in particular, Mr. Sun has never been regarded as an important figure, and what he has said will not be taken seriously in China.

Canton Merchants and Customs Brokers Fall Out.

Chinese merchants in Canton are not viewing very favourably the decision of the Canton Customs Brokers' Association to interfere with importers and exporters trading with Macao. They evidently intend to pass their own cargoes through the Customs if the brokers are unwilling to do so as they have been in the case of shipments on the Canton-Macao river steamers. The reason has been that the owners of these steamers have refused to grant a rebate of ten per cent. for freight charges paid through members of the Association. It has been the practice of certain steamship companies to grant a rebate to the Customs brokers at the end of the year or periodically for freight handled, but the Macao-Canton steamers have for one reason or another stopped this practice which, some say, in effect, is simply a "squeeze." The brokers are already charging handsome commissions for handling goods for their clients. The Canton-Macao steamers are being boycotted by the Customs brokers and no member of the Association will make returns on cargo incoming or outgoing by these steamers before the question of rebate is settled.

HONG KONG COMPRADORES WANT MORE.

PIECE-GOODS GUILD PROTEST.

[FROM OUR CHINESE CORRESPONDENT.]

The Chinese Compradore Association of Hong Kong, on returning to their regular activities to-day or tomorrow, will probably be awaiting them instead of a card of seasonal greetings from the Chinese Piece-Goods Guild—a letter of protest against the Association's recent decision to charge one per cent. instead of the usual one-half per cent. commission for business going through their hands, and the Guild is to take up the matter with the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, in case the Compradore Association is unwilling to reconsider their proposal.

The compradores connected with the large foreign houses in Hong Kong have during the strike and boycott in Canton lost several million dollars, it is understood, and owing to increased risks and unusual circumstances, they have decided to charge the higher commission.

ANTI-CHRISTIAN FANATICISM AT SHANGHAI.

CHRISTMAS DAY ARRANGEMENTS.

The lengths to which a certain type of Chinese fanatic will go in the campaign of hatred against Christianity is remarkable. On Christmas Day, whilst Mr. Matheson, of the Rickscha Coolies Mission, Shanghai, and his numerous helpers, both Chinese and foreign, are in the streets of Shanghai carrying their message of cheer to thousands of Chinese coolies, and distributing gifts in the name of the One whom they serve, an anti-Christian assembly is to be called at the West Gate by the Anti-Christian Federation of Shanghai. Anti-Christian speeches will be given, to be followed by a blasphemous farce entitled "The Real Appearance of God," and pagan songs and dances. At the same time an anti-Christian booklet will be distributed among the people. The Federation decided upon these measures at a meeting on December 20th. It is to be hoped that the Chinese police will, for the good name of their people, put a stop to any such meeting, which cannot possibly be approved by the masses of decent Chinese, and which can only appeal to mob sentiment.

Dr. Tsai Yuen Pei, Chancellor of the Peking National University, is reported by the Chinese press to be one of the speakers.—N.C. Daily News.

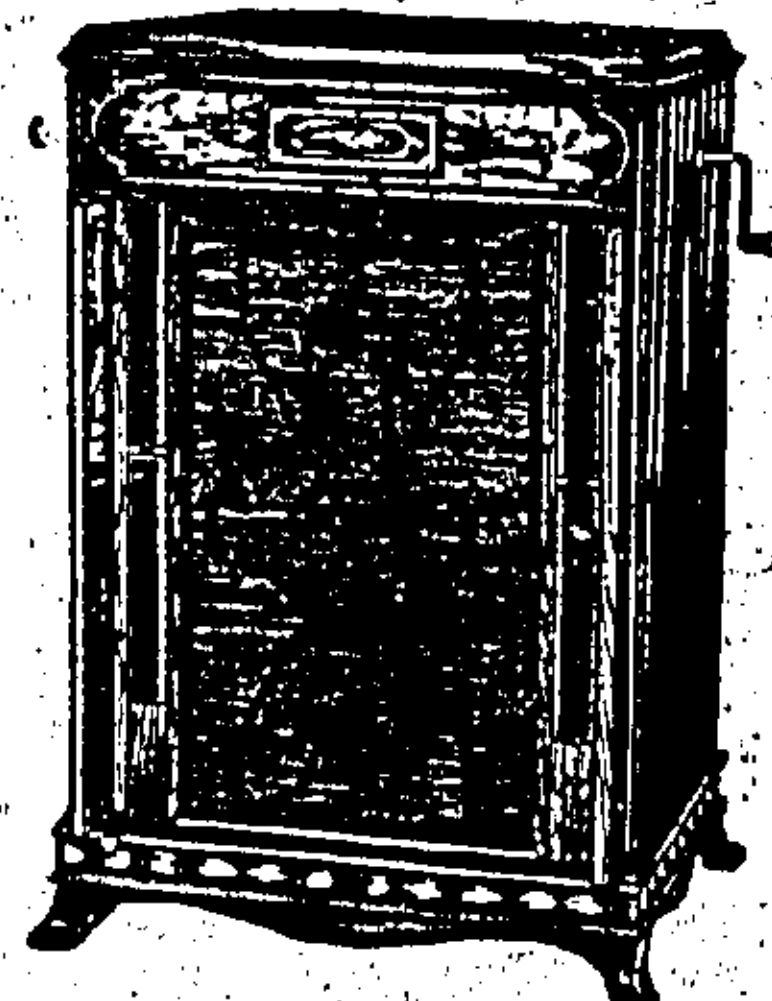


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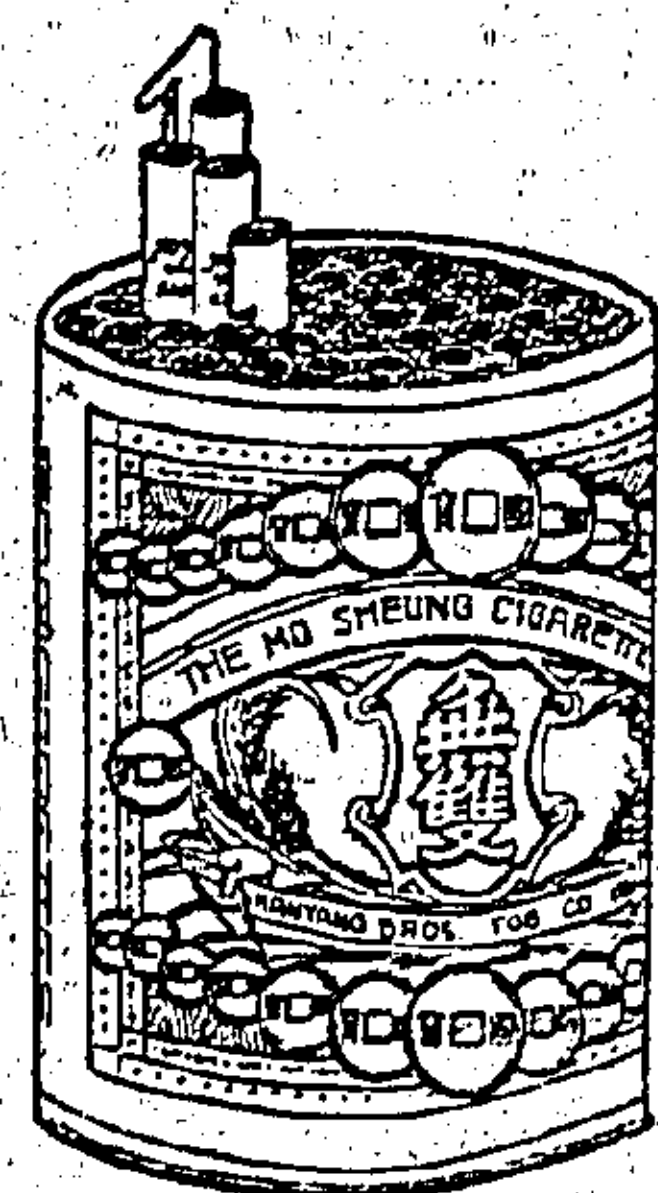
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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE

THE VICTORIA DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION AT HOME TO THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28th, 1926, at 4.15 P.M. at the CITY HALL.

Guests will be received from 4.15 P.M. to 4.30 P.M.

All guests are requested to bring a Card on which their Names should be written.

You will be served in the St. George's Hall and the St. Andrew's Hall.

The Meeting will begin at 5.15 P.M. Functionaries in the Royal Theatre. Guests are requested to take their Seats there between 4.50 P.M. and 5.10 P.M. The Main Entrance only to the Theatre will be used.

There will be a Cloak Room at the Entrance to the CITY HALL but not at the Theatre.

[4350]

REMOVING NOTICE.

WE HAVE THIS DAY REMOVED TO ST. GEORGE'S BUILDINGS, No. 7, CHATER ROAD.

H. SKOTT & Co., [4348]

ACCOUNTANT REQUIRED.—EUROPEAN, Single, Write Fully stating Age, Experience and Salary Requested, to Box No. 4324, c/o Hongkong Daily Press.

[4324]

EWO COTTON MILLS, LTD.

THE undermentioned Share Certificate has been declared DESTROYED and NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN against the Negotiation of These Shares.

Duplicate Certificate will be issued One Month hence and the Original Certificate, unless recovered within that Period, will thereafter be held by the Company as NULL and VOID.

Certificate No. 6409 for 100 Ordinary Shares Numbered 219550/649 in Name of MOK HOK MING.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD., General Managers, Ewo Cotton Mills, Ltd. Shanghai, 9th December, 1926. [4305]

THE INTERNATIONAL RACE AND RECREATION CLUB OF MACAO, LIMITED, MACAO.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the INaugural RACE MEETING FOR CHINA PONIES of this Club will take place at MACAO on the 31st FEBRUARY, 1927, at 10.30 P.M. There will be Only One Event at this Meeting, "THE TRIAL STAKES."

THE FIRST ANNUAL SPRING MEETING FOR CHINA PONIES is Scheduled to take place on the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th APRIL, 1927. The CHAMPION SWEEPSTAKE will be Run on the 18th APRIL, the 3rd Day of the Meeting.

By Order, S. W. CHENG, Secretary. [4320]

MESSERS. KOMOR & KOMOR

CHATER ROAD, ST. GEORGE'S BUILDING (Keechong Building).

MR. KODAKA, WHOLESALE PEARL MERCHANT FROM JAPAN EXHIBITS A FINE COLLECTION OF PEARLS AND PEARL JEWELLERY FOR TWO WEEKS ONLY.

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INTIMATIONS.

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN & MORTGAGE CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31st, 1926, until MONDAY, JANUARY 3rd, 1927, both days inclusive.

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., General Managers. Hong Kong, December 22nd, 1926. [4344]

HONG KONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Certificate No. 5/NS 4789 dated HONGKONG, 2nd OCTOBER, 1917, for One Share of this Bank Numbered 54097 in the Name of Mr. LO KWONG HIN has been LOST or STOLEN, and should this Certificate not be produced to the Bank before the 9th JANUARY, 1927, a New Certificate for the Share will be issued, and the aforesaid Certificate No. 5/NS 4789 will be thereafter treated by this Corporation as NULL and VOID.

By Order of the Court of Directors, A. H. BARLOW, Chief Manager. Hong Kong, 9th December, 1926. [4331]

HONG KONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Certificate No. 5/NS 4789 dated HONGKONG, 31st AUGUST, 1917, for Three Shares of this Bank Numbered 54094/54096 in the Name of Mr. LO KWONG LUM has been LOST or STOLEN, and should this Certificate not be produced to the Bank before the 9th JANUARY, 1927, a New Certificate for the Shares will be issued, and the aforesaid Certificate No. 5/NS 4789 will be thereafter treated by this Corporation as NULL and VOID.

By Order of the Court of Directors, A. H. BARLOW, Chief Manager. Hong Kong, 9th December, 1926. [4332]

HONG KONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Certified Transfer Deed for One Share of this Bank Numbered 63859 in the Name of Mr. ANTHONY HENRY CARROLL, stated to have been completed by Mrs. E. M. STAPLETON has been LOST or STOLEN, and should this Certified Transfer Deed not be produced before the 9th JANUARY, 1927, a New Certified Transfer Deed will be issued, and the aforesaid Missing Certified Transfer Deed will be thereafter treated by this Corporation as NULL and VOID.

By Order of the Court of Directors, A. H. BARLOW, Chief Manager. Hong Kong, 9th December, 1926. [4333]

FOR SALE Two valuable lots central Western District and Queen's Road Central, about 18,000 and 9,200 S.F.; valuations approx. \$400,000 each. We buy corner building in central district also house with tennis court. SMALL INVESTOR'S. Tel. C. 4030.

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TO LET.

A EUROPEAN SHOP in NATHAN ROAD, Kowloon. Apply to—HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE CO., LTD. 4025/ Alexandra Buildings.

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NO. 4A, DUDDELL STREET. Apply to—THE HON. SECRETARY, CLUB LUSITANO. [4214]

PREPAID "WANTED" ADVERTISEMENTS.

TO LET.—"STOWFORD No. 2," 46, BONHAM ROAD, Three Stories, Six Rooms, Five Bath Rooms, Kitchen, Servants' Quarters, Recently Repaired and Renovated.—Apply DEACONS, FRANCES BUILDING. [216]

FOR SALE.—A Few Old Chinese PICTURES.—Apply Box 219, c/o Hongkong Daily Press. [219]

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THE HONG KONG DISPENSARY. [50]

DEATHS. CANADA.—On December 21st, at Shanghai, YEABEL CANADA, aged 54. MCGREGOR.—On December 20th, at Shanghai, ALEXANDER MCGREGOR, of the Shanghai Municipal Electricity Department, aged 43.

Hong Kong Office: 1A, CHATER ROAD. London Office: 131, Fleet Street, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONG KONG, DECEMBER 28TH, 1926.

A MISTAKEN POLICY.

There is no doubt that the Memorandum, outlining Great Britain's policy towards China, which our *Chargé d'Affaires* recently handed to the other members of the Diplomatic Body in Peking for consideration, was prompted by sincere good-will. It seems to us, however, that it was entirely lacking in good sense.

We hold no particular brief for the "man on the spot" and are ready to admit that the Foreign Office, with its many sources of information and its constant reports from all quarters, should be in a position to form a sounder and more statesmanlike judgment than individuals whose vision may possibly be clouded by undue concentration upon their own particular interests. But in this case the Foreign Office seems to have acted upon the results of abstract reasoning without paying the slightest regard to practical possibilities and, as a consequence, it has stumbled badly. A policy based upon nothing but abstract reasoning is absolutely futile in Chinese affairs.

The "man in the street" who knows nothing of Chinese politics might reasonably be expected to argue that agreement upon the Washington surtaxes and an offer to legalise their collection through the Maritime Customs in order

that the various provinces should receive additional revenue would be welcomed throughout the country. But we do not expect the Foreign Office necessarily to argue upon the lines of "the man in the street." We expect the officials to know something of the facts of the situation and it would be interesting to know from where they obtained the inspiration for this latest, well-meant, but hopelessly ill-advised "gesture" of good-will. If carried into effect the policy will only antagonise the Nationalists, and prolong civil war by providing additional sums for the payment of troops and for ammunition.

The idea apparently of the unsophisticated British official is that the Chinese have desired these extra tariffs and are annoyed because they have been denied; therefore, to make everyone happy let the taxes be imposed without any more formalities or delay. The fact that all the Powers have protested against the taxes in Canton is overlooked or forgotten, the *volte face* is excused on the ground that conditions in China are changing and that consequently our policy must change with them. No one wishes a small matter such as a two and a half per cent. tariff to remain a bone of contention. It is all beautifully simple and agreeable on paper, and six months or more ago it might have been acceptable in practice, but what are the facts to-day? Canton being refused permission to collect the taxes through the Customs is collecting them herself—a comparatively easy matter in Canton and Swatow. SUN CHANG FANG would probably do the same if he could in his own territory in Shanghai, but in his case a subsidiary Customs Bureau to operate effectively would have to be established in the International Settlement. Such a Bureau would not be allowed on Shanghai, except through international agreement; nor would it be allowed in Shanghai. As a consequence the collection, as far as Shanghai is concerned, has to be made legally through the Maritime Customs or not at all. A protest was entered quite properly against the collection of taxes in the beginning. Now the Nationalist cause has spread half way through China and SUN CHANG FANG has been defeated the suggestion is made that surtaxes should be legalised and the revenue produced handed to the Provincial authorities. Marshal SUN, although without a province which he can call wholly loyal, is still the ruling authority in Shanghai. Presumably, therefore, the extra revenue obtained from the Shanghai Customs would go to his account. It would be a very valuable gift indeed considering that the present Customs revenue of Shanghai represents nearly 50 per cent. of the total for China. What would Canton think of this delightful plum being handed, in this way, to its adversary? Very naturally it would consider Great Britain had changed her policy simply to help the North against the South. Our wonderful "gesture of good-will" would have an effect entirely opposite to that intended. And what policy would be more calculated to prolong civil strife? What military leader would not desire to gain possession of Shanghai with such a prize dangling in front of his nose?

Before such indiscriminate handing out of revenue can be permitted there must be some representative Government or some attempt to establish zones of influence with certain responsibilities and duties attaching to them. To agree that every militarist who captured a port should *ipso facto* be rewarded with a slice of the maritime revenues would end all prospects of peace by putting a premium on plotting and intrigue.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Trenchard-Davis and Miss Dodd of Shanghai are visitors at the Repulse Bay Hotel.

Special excursions, particulars of which were given on Saturday, were run to Macao during the Holidays, and on Christmas Day, Sunday and yesterday a large number made the trip to the Portuguese Colony.

Miss Lim Beng Hong, who arrived in Singapore from England recently after having passed out as a barrister, the first woman in Malaya to have done so, filed her application for membership of the local bar in the Supreme Court Registry, Penang, on December 9th.

The wedding took place at the Presbyterian Church, Singapore, on the 15th instant of Mr. John Barclay, son of the late Dr. John Barclay, of Banff, Scotland, and Miss Ethel Constance Murray, until recently a nursing sister in the Hong Kong Government service.

Diwan Mengel Sen was again remanded for two more days, when appearing before Mr. R. E. Lindell yesterday morning on an application for his repatriation to India on charges of forgery and criminal breach of trust. Sergeant Eliaon said he still had no news from India.

From Kowloon City an armed robbery is reported, in which the gang used screw-drivers and a chopper as weapons with which to terrorise the occupants. This occurred on Sunday. After putting the lady occupant in the kitchen the gang of four ransacked the house and made off with loot totalling \$181.50.

The Kowloon Fire Brigade were called to a small fire which broke out in a knitting factory on the ground floor of No. 6, Tung Hing Road, Mongkok, yesterday morning. The Brigade were only present for a matter of five minutes before the stop call was given. It appears that some waste material in the cockloft caught on fire. Very little damage was done.

Miss Roberio, residing at 5, Lyemun Villas, Chatham Road, reported yesterday to the police that between December 25th and 27th a gold ring set with a single uncut diamond had been stolen from her dressing table.

The Rev. J. C. Knight Antsey, the new Minister at the Wanchai Wesleyan Church, and Mr. Antsey, arrived in the Colony by the P. & O. s.s. *Adfyra* yesterday morning, and was met on arrival by officials and members of the Church. A reception is being held in the Sailors' and Soldiers' Home, Arsenal Street, this evening, to welcome the Minister and his wife. Next Sunday, the Rev. Knight Antsey will conduct the services at the Wesleyan Church.

A Chinese married woman living at 306, Reclamation Street, Kowloon, on the 2nd floor, reported to the police that at 1.10 p.m. yesterday she was alone on the 2nd floor when a knock came at the door. She opened it and five men entered on the pretext that they were going to repair the water pipes. They walked towards the kitchen, but suddenly turned and seized her. They bound and gagged her and started to ransack the room, taking about 30 minutes over it. They eventually went away taking \$161 in money and jewellery which the woman valued at another \$135.

The P. & O. s.s. *Adfyra* arrived in port yesterday morning from Hong Kong, and among the passengers on board for Hong Kong were:—Mr. and Mrs. J. Archibald, Rev. and Mrs. K. Antsey, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Abbott, Miss Abbott, Mr. J. Bright, Mr. and Mrs. Boothby, Mr. W. Carstairs, Miss M. de Boileau, Mr. A. S. Gordon, Mr. L. H. Gippis, Mr. H. Hatch, Sub-Lt. E. W. Howard-Crockett, R.N., Mr. W. Kay, Mr. R. Kirkwood, Miss Lander, Mr. H. A. Lucas, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Mason, Sub-Lt. C. H. de B. Newby, R.N., Miss C. Ross, Mr. H. V. Robinson, Mr. T. R. Stobbs, Miss M. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Waterton.

There were no fewer than four accidents during the Christmas holidays. From the servants' quarters on the 1st floor of No. 65, Macdonnell Road, a Chinese man accidentally fell into the street and was killed. His body was removed to the mortuary. A Chinese woman who was putting out clothes on a bamboo to dry, tumbled over the (1st floor) verandah of No. 131, First Street, in the western district. She is now being cared for at the Government Civil Hospital. Other inmates of the hospital are a coolie who got entangled between 2 trucks on the Shaikwan Road, near Bay View police station; and a Chinese earth coolie who was hurt by a fall of earth at Morrison Hill.

PEDDER BUILDING BLAZE. MADAM FLINT'S BEAUTY PARLOUR DESTROYED. CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE DONE.

The spick and span Beauty Parlour of Madam Flint was totally destroyed yesterday morning. The Café Parisien has also suffered slight damage by water. The Fire Brigade received the call at twelve minutes past one, and four engines were promptly despatched to the scene in charge of Superintendent Brooks. When the Brigade arrived it was seen that the flames had obtained a good hold in the upper part of the building, and the fire-fighters found some difficulty in bringing hoses to bear.

Entry Gained by Knocking Down Door. However, they got inside by knocking down a door leading into the yard at the back and the fire-fighters were then able to take a hose right inside into the upper part of the Café, and get at such closer quarters with the flames. The windows in the Beauty Parlour were broken and a ladder was placed against the outside of the building, and a hose taken up. The Brigade was thus able to attack the fire directly from two different angles, and after an hour of strenuous work, the outbreak was quelled.

Like the Effects of a Flood. The trim and neat entrance to the Café is now gone, and inside the Café, it looked as though there had been a flood and when our representative saw it, there were several inches of water on the ground floor. The upper part of the Café escaped with little or no damage, and when the water has been drained off the ground floor it should not take long to put the Café into use again.

Considerable Damage Done. The damage done to both the premises and the stock is very considerable. The Beauty Parlour, which was enamelled throughout in cream and gold is burnt beyond recognition, and the entire contents of the shop were destroyed.

Outside in the lane which bounds the north side of the Café were heaps of goods all badly burnt. Most of them were brought out from the Beauty Parlour, and it was evident that many dollars worth of dresses had been destroyed, together with several rolls of cloth. A number of models, which were used for the showing dresses, are now charred masses, and there are also some purses and bags among the heap. Boxes, gloves, and various articles of ladies' attire were mixed up together in the lane.

The damage caused by the fire is in the neighbourhood of \$3,000.

Cause of Fire Not Known. It is not known definitely at present how the fire started but it is believed to have broken out through the fusing of an electric wire.

The fire started in the Beauty Parlour. A thin match-board partition is thought to have soon burst into flames, this igniting a quantity of cotton wool and other highly inflammable fabrics in the work rooms.

BIG FIRE AT YAUMATI.

FIVE HOUSES GUTTED.

FIRE BRIGADE'S SMART WORK.

STARTED IN CRACKER SHOP.

At 8.45 last night a serious fire broke out in a block of houses at the junction of Wing Shang Street and Temple Street, Yaumati. These houses are four stories high—shops on the ground floor, and then tenements—and according to one report the fire started in a Chinese cracker shop and quickly spread upwards.

Another story puts the cause of the outbreak down to the ignition of some fireworks by a woman in the floor above the cracker shop. All that is certain is that a great fusillade of crackers was heard, smoke and flames were seen to issue from the building and very soon it was seriously on fire.

These houses are of fairly recent construction but the partitions are of thin matchboarding, and the rooms crammed with light furniture and clothing, all of a most inflammable nature. The fire burnt quickly upwards and soon the buildings on either side were alight.

Fortunately, there was little or no wind or instead of five houses only being destroyed the whole block of twenty would in all probability have gone.

Houses Flayed from Verandah's Opposite. The fire brigade were quickly on the scene, two appliances from Kowloon, another two from Mongkok and the fire boat soon being at work. The firemen played their hoses from opposite verandahs and by about 10.30 p.m. appeared to have got the conflagration well in hand, four houses having been involved.

Then at about 11 p.m. it broke afresh, with renewed vigour and a fifth house caught alight, the 2nd and 3rd floors being gutted and the two lower floors badly damaged by water.

Completely Guttered.

By 11.45 p.m. the first four were completely gutted, but flames still burnt up fiercely amid the great heaps of debris. All but the bare walls had fallen and these were in so precarious a condition that the police erected strong barricades to keep adventurous onlookers out of danger.

In a Busy District.

The scene of the fire is in one of the busiest shopping centres in Yaumati and very quickly a huge crowd collected. As the flames spread occupants of adjoining houses started to remove their belongings and the pavements and streets were soon piled high with furniture of every description.

Up to the time of writing neither loss of life or injury of any kind has been reported. It was 12.30 a.m. before the fire brigade ceased work and it was considered advisable to leave on section, with an appliance to keep guard during the night. Mr. H. T. Brooks, Superintendent of the Hong Kong Fire Brigade, on his arrival soon after the alarm was given took charge of the fire fighting operations and with him was Mr. Saunders, of the Kowloon Brigade.

As already stated one of the demolished houses was a cracker shop, another was being set out at a pawnshop, but had not opened business, and a third was a rattle shop.

About 300 people were rendered homeless by the fire and the loss of furniture and other personal property is estimated at \$20,000.

YESTERDAY'S LOCAL WEDDING.

CURTIS-MERCER.

A pretty wedding took place at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Glenelg, yesterday, between Mr. Walter Shillito Vaughan Curtis, of 23A, Cameron Road, Kowloon, and Miss Emma Esther Mercer, residing at the Italian Convent, Caine Road, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Mercer. The Rev. Father Noval officiated.

The bride, who was charmingly attired in white crepe morocain trimmed with silver lace, and carried a bouquet of white roses with maiden hair fern, was given away by Capt. R. Innes. Miss Connie Gardner, the flower-girl, wore crepe de chine, trimmed with georgette and pink rosebuds. She also carried a bouquet of pink roses.

The honeymoon is being spent at White Cottage, Taiipo. The bride's going-away costume was of beige de noie morocain with hat and coat to match.

SERIOUS MOTOR ACCIDENT.

POLICE OFFICER SUSTAINS BAD INJURIES.

MOTOR-CYCLE SMASHED.

While going on patrol duty, Sgt. A. George, of the Hong Kong Police met with a serious accident on Sunday, and was removed to the Government Civil Hospital with a broken leg.

He was going from St.aley Police Station towards Repulse Bay on an A.J.S. combination. When rounding a bend some 300 yards up the gradient leading from the Stanley Police Station, his motor-cycle collided almost head-on with car No. 247, owned by Mr. Gubbay of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. So heavy was the impact that the cycle was smashed and the rider was thrown to the ground. Sgt. George received first aid treatment from a fellow-officer from the Stanley Police Station, and a few minutes later he was conveyed to hospital in a motor ambulance. At the hospital an examination disclosed compound fractures in three places between the knee and ankle of the right leg. An operation was performed later in the evening. Sgt. George was said to be in a precarious condition.

THE BRITISH MEMORANDUM.

SUMMARY OF AN IMPORTANT AND FAR-REACHING STATE DOCUMENT.

RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

SHANGHAI, December 26th.

The British Memorandum begins by recounting the principles agreed upon at the Washington Conference with a view to safeguarding the integrity and independence of China, granting increases of tariff and paving the way to ultimate abolition of extra-territoriality.

During the four years that have since elapsed, the whole situation has been changed by the Civil War, the steady progress of disintegration, decline of any authority in Peking and the uprise of the Nationalist Party in Canton.

The Nationalist movement has attained to such dimensions that "any failure to meet it with sympathy and understanding" would be contrary to the spirit of the Washington Conference.

Great Britain therefore proposes that the Washington Conference Powers issue a statement recouping the facts of the situation and declaring their readiness "to negotiate on Treaty revision and all other outstanding questions" when the Chinese have constituted an established Government.

At the same time they should proclaim a constructive policy "developed and adapted to meet the altered situation of the time." In this they should declare themselves in favour of tariff autonomy and strongly disclaim any idea of forcing foreign control upon China in any respect whatever.

It is stipulated that the Chinese must show that respect for the sanctity of Treaties "which is a primary obligation common to all civilised States." At the same time the Powers should recognise the justice of China's claim for revision of the Treaty and should modify their insistence on "the letter of the Treaty rights."

During the prolonged period of uncertainty, the Powers should endeavour to promote developments in China, according to the realities of the situation. They should "abandon the policy of ineffective protest over minor matters, reserving any protest, which should then be made effective, by united action only for cases where vital interests are at stake."

Certain recommendations in the Extra-Territoriality Commission's report can be carried out now, says the Memorandum: a step of the most immediate importance is to "undo the evil results that have flowed from the failure of the Tariff Conference to implement the promises made at Washington" with regard to the increase of the tariff.

The document goes on to point out that Great Britain had always strongly objected to the attitude of other delegates at the Tariff Conference that the surtaxes must be put under foreign control and used as consolidation of China's unsecured debts. Great Britain has always been against any extension of foreign control with respect to surtaxes and therefore "strongly urges that the Powers should now authorise the levy of the Washington surtaxes unconditionally throughout China."

This may be contrary to the wording of the Treaty, but it must be recognised that the latter, in many respects, is out of date.

With the Memorandum is issued an "annex," addressed by the British Government to the United States, and dated May 28th, emphasising Britain's opposition to pledging the surtaxes for the unsecured debts as also to any foreign control over surtaxes and arguing that any reasonable promise made by China with respect to unsecured debts should be accepted by the Powers.

AFFAIRS IN CHINA.

[THROUGH REUTER'S SERVICE.]

The Memorandum.

SHANGHAI, December 26th.

A lengthy British Memorandum on China has been issued by the British Legation and Consulates throughout China to-day. A copy has been sent to the Hong Kong Government.

London Press Comment.

LONDON, December 26th.

Largely on account of the holiday season publication arrangements Sunday's comment is very brief of the British Memorandum which, however, is recognized as a State paper of vital importance in its bearing on the Chinese situation.

The *Sunday Times* thinks that perhaps it is only a question of a few weeks before the situation will be ripe for negotiations in view of the fact that the Chinese forces are steadily gaining the upper hand. The paper, therefore, hopes that other powers will speedily concur in the British proposals, which afford the best way of protecting all their interests.

The *Observer* points out that the British Government has now formally urged what they privately urged months ago—that the Powers think in terms of the present and not of the past in their policy.

Belgian Foreign Minister's Views.

BRUSSELS, December 26th.

It is understood that M. Van de Velde, Foreign Minister, has given his approval to Britain's attitude on China regarding an immediate conditional enforcement of the Customs surtaxes as laid down at the Washington Conference, and also of the carrying out in the most liberal spirit the Extra-territoriality Commission's recommendations.

[THROUGH HAVAS AGENCY.]

M. Briand's Attitude.

PARIS, December 26th.

L'Ouvre understands that M. Briand does not disapprove of the British memorandum concerning China.

Japan's Foreign Policy.

PARIS, December 26th.

The death of the Emperor of Japan has been made the occasion by "Pettinax" in the *Echo de Paris*, to express his opinions regarding Japan's foreign policy. The writer considers that Japan profited by recent events in China since the anti-Foreign outbreaks, which chiefly affect the south, driving trade northwards, where Japan is entrenched. The "un-

forgettable slight" the denunciation of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance will doubtless tend to make Japan persist in her attitude and the British Memorandum on her policy in China is obviously unlikely to attract Japan.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

Anti-Christian And Anti-British Meetings.

SHANGHAI, December 26th.

A telegram from Hankow, dated December 26th, states that the native pastors in most of the places in the Native City did not function at the Christmas services.

An incident took place on Christmas eve at the Lutheran Mission in the Native City when a body of anti-Christians invaded the premises and removed bibles, hymn books, etc. Three anti-Christian and anti-British meetings were held at Wuchang, Hanyang and Hankow, respectively, this morning.

It is estimated that 5,000 were at the meeting in the Native City, and about the same number at Wuchang and Hanyang.

The speakers numbered about 40 and represented every section of the Government and Army.

GENERAL CHIANG PREPARING TO MEET THE NORTHERN TROOPS.

General Chiang Kai Shek has called a military conference at Nanchang for the purpose, it is reported, of making preparations against the coming attack of the Fengtien Army. He ordered the organisation of 40 Divisions of picked troops to be used against the attackers.

MARSHAL CHANG TSO LIN.

GOING TO PEKING.

SHANGHAI, December 27th.

A telegram from Peking states that it is officially announced from Tientsin that Marshal Chang Tso Lin left for Peking at 11 o'clock this morning.

LATER.

Chang Tso Lin has arrived in Peking.

SHANGHAI, December 27th.

The Northern war plans are now stated to have been drawn up. 100,000 Shan-tungites will be in the forefront, some going to Anking (Anhui) while others are marching along the north bank of the Yangtze to Hupoh. Others are expected to cross the Yangtze and invade Kiangsi.

ONE OF SHANGHAI'S DEFENDERS.

We are informed, says the *North China Daily News*, that Admiral Pi Shou Chen, Governor of Tientsin and Commander of the Pehihli Fleet of the Chinese Navy, who is one of Marshal Chang Chung Chang's leading subordinates, will arrive in Shanghai shortly to co-operate with Admiral Yang Shu Chuang, the Allied Commander-in-Chief, in the defence of Shanghai and Wusung and the patrol of the Chekiang coast. Admiral Pi is the only Chinese officer who holds a concurrent military post, his title being General in the Fengtien army.

CHANG TSO LIN'S RETURN TO MUKDEN ADVISED.

Lieut. General Yang Yu Ting, the "brains" of the Mukden Army, is in Tientsin again in order to discuss matters with the Fengtien Commanders. Three principal officers are said to have agreed that the headquarters of the Northern Federal Army should be kept at Mukden to issue orders to the troops in North China.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

FLIGHT TO INDIA.

GOOD WISHES FROM THEIR MAJESTIES.

SIR SAMUEL AND LADY HOARE OFF ON THEIR LONG JOURNEY.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

LONDON, December 27th.

The Air Minister, Sir Samuel Hoare, departed from Croydon just after dawn on his flight to India, accompanied by his wife, who is thus undertaking the longest flight ever made by a woman.

Their Majesties telegraphed "bon voyage," a successful visit and a safe return home.

The party aboard totals ten. It is expected that the flight, with stops, will take at least a fortnight.

LANDAU COURT MARTIAL.

FRENCH GENERAL RECOMMENDS PARDON.

GRANTED BY FRENCH PRESIDENT.

PARIS, December 25th.

M. Painleve, War Minister, has informed the Cabinet that General Guillaumat commanding the Army of the Rhine has recommended the President of the Republic to exercise his prerogative and pardon the six Germans sentenced in the Landau case.

French President Remits All The Sentences.

PARIS, December 26th.

President Doumergue has signed a decree remitting all the sentences of the six Germans in connection with the Gernersheim affair.

[The court martial into the French and German affair at Gernersheim on September 27th, when two French soldiers collided with several Germans, one of whom, Mueller, was killed, and another, Mathes, was wounded by shots from the French, resulted in the French Lieutenant Rouzier being acquitted. Mathes was sentenced to two years in default and minor sentences were passed on five other Germans.]

JAVA REVOLT.

THREE MEN SENTENCED TO DEATH.

BATAVIA, December 25th.

The court has passed the death sentence on three men who tried to stir up rebellion, one of whom murdered a policeman.

One other rebel has been condemned to life imprisonment and one to twenty years' imprisonment.

NICARAGUA'S PRESIDENT.

ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE.

MASAGUA, December 25th.

Two men armed with heavy knives attempted to assassinate President Diaz. They attacked the carriage as the President was returning from a social function. President Diaz alighted unharmed but his driver was cut to pieces.

American Marines Land.

WASHINGTON, December 26th.

American Marines have landed at Puerto Cabezas, the capital of the Nicaraguan Liberal Forces, from the cruisers *Denver* and *Cleveland* with instructions to protect American lives and property.

PANIC IN KASHING.

FEAR OF IMPRESSMENT AND BATTLE.

For the past week, says a message to the *Shanghai Mercury*, dated December 20th, Kashing has been a panic-stricken city. People have fled from here in great crowds, some going to Shanghai and others to country places round about. Most of the panic seems to be due to a rumour that the Southern forces were advancing on Kashing, and that this city would again be in the line of battle.

The impressment of men for three days added to this terror, for two months ago many of those men, impressed by Ex-Governor Hsia, were killed in battle there.

For several days practically all shops were closed, and business was at a standstill.

The transporting of troops upset train and launch schedules, and this caused further panic.

A notice was issued by the local Chamber of Commerce urging business men to open up shops and again resume business, and a proclamation from a local military official that there would be no impressment of men for the time being, have allayed the fears of many and trade is now opening up again.

All Government schools in the city have closed. The Girls' School here, controlled by the Presbyterian Mission, has also closed and all students and teachers have returned home. In the Boys' School of the Mission, while classes are being maintained under a shortened schedule, there are only a few boys left, about forty out of 371; and these boys would probably go if the way is opened up for them.

Arrangements are being made to care for refugees in case of danger.

China. They are trying to persuade Marshal Chang Tso Lin to do so, being of opinion that the Marshal's long stay in Tientsin exposes him to the danger of being misled by the seductions of military and political satellites surrounding him, while his every movement should be guided by the utmost discretion. — *Manchuria Daily News*.

CHINESE BISHOPS IN BELGIUM.

TAKE PART IN CENTENARY CEREMONY.

ROYALTY AND OTHER PERSONAGES PRESENT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRUSSELS, December 26th.

The Queen, Prince Charles, the Chinese Minister and the Apostolic Nuncio attended Pontifical High Mass, celebrated in the Church of St. Michel Gudule by the Chinese Bishops who are visiting Europe.

The service commemorated the septi-centenary foundation of the church. A Chinese bishop officiated in the evening and offered prayer in the afternoon.

CONFLAGRATION IN AN AUSTRALIAN TOWN.

CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE AND LOOTING.

SYDNEY, December 26th.

Fifteen business premises at Kyogle have been burned down. The damage is estimated at £100,000. There was considerable damage by looting.

HINDU LEADER'S OBSEQUIES.

PASS OFF QUIETLY.

DELHI, December 26th.

Hundreds of thousands of Hindus, including members of the "untouchable" caste, attended the funeral of Swami Shradhanand.

A huge demonstration followed the cremation. The proceedings were orderly except for a few minor incidents, in which six Mohammedans were arrested for stone-throwing.

INDIAN POLITICS.

THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

GAUHATI, Assam, December 25th.

Finding that the delegates from Bengal, Bihar and Assam will command an overwhelming majority at the Indian National Congress, which opens on December 26th, the Responsivists have decided not to fight this session, but to watch developments in the hope that the Swarajists will themselves modify their policy.

During the first year's working of the new legislatures Mr. Bhopalkar, President of the Responsivists, telegraphed from Poona declaring that boycotting the councils had been tried and found wanting and obstruction found to be wrong in principle and pernicious in practice. Gandhi has arrived.

There is an indication that the Congress and session will be a tame affair of Swarajist domination.

Delegates' Views.

LATER.

2,500 delegates and 8,000 visitors were present at the opening of the National Congress for the first time held in Assam. Srinivasa Iyengar, ex-Advocate-General of Madras, in his Presidential Address, asserted that no scheme of self-government would be acceptable which denied full control of the Civil Service, Military, Naval and Air Forces, political relations with Indian states and refused India dominion status on the same terms as were determined at the Imperial Conference.

Iyengar advocated a Cultural and Business Association between Asiatic countries and promised the full support of Indians striving for equal status overseas.

The Swarajist leader, Motilal Nehru, moved a continuance of the policy involving non-acceptance of Government offices, refusal of supplies and the rejection of the Budget. The Assembly Phookan, while admitting that British rule had brought some improvement, urged the Government with poisoning the people of Assam by carrying out an immoral traffic in opium.

MONS FILM SUCCESS.

RECORD ATTENDANCES AT KINEMAS.

"Mons," the fine British film record of the heroism and endurance of the "Old Contemptibles" in the first months of the war, was recently shown in 50 cinema theatres throughout England, and from every quarter came news of record attendances.

In Liverpool, for instance, 1,500 more people saw "Mons" on Monday than attended even the first day of "Xpans," and New Era Films, which is distributing the picture, has been asked to allow it to remain at that particular house another week.

Those who have seen "Mons" include many thousands who have patronised the cinema as a rule, and it has been estimated that by the production of "Xpans," "Mons," and now, best of all, "Mons," at least 1,000,000 people in Great Britain alone have been added to the number of film enthusiasts.

In many towns special arrangements were made for Lord Mayors and other civic dignitaries, also ex-servicemen and their relatives, to view "Mons" on Armistice Day.

"Mons," before the end of its run, will almost certainly have been booked by at least half of England's 3,000 cinemas.

REDUCTION OF THE WORLD'S ARMAMENTS.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE'S PROPOSED CONFERENCE.

[REUTER'S AMERICAN SERVICE.]

WASHINGTON, December 26th.

President Coolidge, in a statement reiterating the move to increase the Navy by ten cruisers, says it is merely meant to round-off the Navy and not to stir up competitive naval construction.

Referring to his proposal that the United States call another Armaments Conference for the reduction of armaments, either through the proposed League of Nations Disarmament Conference or through another Washington Conference, the President says that such would tend to reduce taxation throughout the world and enable Europe earlier to reach economic stabilisation. The proposed conference, which is suggested by the United States, should deal with matters left undecided by the previous conference.

HOME FOOTBALL.

RESULTS OF LEAGUE MATCHES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

LONDON, December 25th.

League: Division I.

Aston Villa 4, Sheffield U. 0.
Blackburn R. 4, Huddersfield 2.
Bolton W. 3, Derby 1.
Barnley 4, Liverpool 0.
Bury 2, Wednesday 0.
Everton 5, Sunderland 4.
Leicester 5, West Brom 0.
Newcastle 5, Cardiff 0.
Tottenham 1, Manchester Un. 1.
West Ham 1, Birmingham 0.

Division II.

Chelsea 1, Hull 0.
Clapton O. 1, Port Vale 2.
Darlington 3, Barnsley 3.
Grimsby 2, Blackpool 1.
Manchester C. 3, Middlesbrough 5.
Notts C. 0, Southampton 1.
Oldham 5, Swansea 2.
Portsmouth 0, Nottingham 0.
Reading 3, Fulham 0.
South Shields 1, Preston N.E. 1.
Wolves 7, Bradford C. 2.

Division III. (Southern).

Aberdeen 3, Bristol City 7.
Brighton 2, Northampton 0.
Bristol R. 5, Southend 1.
Charlton 3, Gillingham 0.
Coventry 3, Crystal P. 1.
Luton 6, Millwall 0.
Newport 2, Bournemouth 1.
Norwich 2, Brentford 1.
Flynth 3, Exeter 0.
Swindon 3, Merthyr 2.
Queen's Park 2, Walford 4.

Division III. (Northern).

Accrington 2, Tranmere 3.
Barrow 1, Stockport 3.
Bradford 7, Doncaster 3.
Chesterfield 3, New Brighton 1.
Durham 0, Ashington 0.
Halifax 1, Southport 1.
Hartlepool 1, Crewe 1.
Rochdale 7, Lincoln 3.
Stoke 4, Rotherham 1.
Walsall 3, Wigan 2.

Scottish League.

Aberdeen 0, Cowdenbeath 0.
Airdrie 1, Clyde 1.
Celtic 4, Kilmarnock 2.
Dundee Un. 2, Rangers 0.
Dunfermline 1, Morton 1.
Hearts 0, Dundee 0.
Motherwell 2, Queen's Park 1.
Partick 0, Falkirk 1.
St. Johnstone 0, Hibernians 0.
St. Mirren 0, Hamilton 1.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

MAORI'S DEFEAT "ALL FRANCE."

PARIS, December 26th.

The touring Maori rugby team defeated "All France" by 12 points to 3.

BARRACKS' DOGS EXAMINED.

ACTION BY ARMY MEDICAL OFFICER.

EUROPEAN CHILD BITTEN BY DOG.

Following the death from hydrophobia of Gunner Patrick Murphy of the Royal Artillery, Lyceum last week, an examination has been made of all dogs at the local military barracks. Four dogs from Wellington Barracks and another dog from Murray Barracks have been sent to the Kennedy Town home for observation. The report states that this action was taken by Army medical officers "in consequence of a dog bite."

CHILD Bitten.

Miss Joan Douglas, the daughter of Mr. Douglas, No. 59, The Park, has been bitten by a black and white terrier near Jardine's Corner on the Peak. She was immediately treated by Dr. G. D. R. Black and the dog is being examined.

An Indian has been admitted to the Government Civil Hospital as the result of being attacked by a white mongrel in Kennedy Road, the owner of which has not been traced. This dog has also been impounded.

OBITUARY.

WELL-KNOWN SHANGHAI STOCKBROKER.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

SHANGHAI, December 26th.

The death is announced of Mr. G. D. Coutts, Chairman of the Shanghai Exchange Brokers' Association. He died in London on December 24th.

WHITEAWAY AGAIN VICTIMISED.

THIRD BURGLARY IN TWO YEARS.

BURGLARS MADE \$10,000 HAUL.

A gang of cracksmen forced into the premises of Messrs. W. Laidlaw & Co., in Des Voeux Central on Christmas night, and with silk goods and other valued approximately at between \$10,000. This, it may be remembered, is the third burglary at Messrs. Laidlaw's in two years.

To reach the main store, the burglars used hammers and chisels to knock large hole through a fourteen-inch wall after first having burst through a door into the godown on the second floor at a rear of the premises.

Well Acquainted With Premises.

The marauders must have been well acquainted with the layout of the premises. Although the hole in the wall was some twenty feet from the ground, it was in the most suitable spot for the attempt. A strong rope was used by the thieves to lower themselves down to the ground, and once inside, they availed themselves of bamboo ladders to get exactly where they fancied.

Having cleared the major portion of the stock in the gentlemen's outfitter department, the intruders directed their attention to the head wear section. They secured no less than 9 dozen of the better quality of velour and felt hats, which cost from \$13 to \$15 each.

Nor was the upper storey left unmolested. One blanket was taken from this department and as the handles had been cut off from a number of skipping ropes, it is believed that the rope was used for tying up the hats in the blanket.

Dozens of boxes previously containing silk handkerchiefs were left empty behind, showcases were stripped of everything of value, and leather suit-cases found on the premises were used to take away the proceeds of the burglary.

Safe Left Alone.

There was no attempt made to open the safe in the office of Mr. A. O. Smith, the general manager of the company. From the intruders' point of view this was unfortunate, for the whole of the Christmas Eve takings, amounting to several thousands of dollars were in it, and also a number of gold watches were also locked in the safe.

Mr. Smith made a personal inspection of the premises on Christmas Day, leaving about noon, and he discovered the store in a state of confusion when he paid his next visit at noon on Sunday. The police on arrival found crowbars and chisels which the thieves had left behind, and it is understood that investigation will be made for fingerprints.

It is believed that the crime was perpetrated during daylight, as anyone using torches inside would, in all probability, have been seen.

The premises, it is understood, were not insured against burglary.

ORGANISING A NATION.

MUSSOLINI ON ITALY'S NEED OF A DICTATOR.

"I do not know what it is that protects me from assassins; certainly it is something mystic. I shall live on until my work is finished."

So Signor Mussolini said to an English Press representative in referring to his escape from assassination. He said: "It was a good-sized bullet this time" he was referring to the attempt at Bologna by a boy whom the crowd afterwards lynched.

"It was an automatic, so the boy meant business. It was no woman's little pistol like that which Miss Gibson used, but a weapon easily capable of killing a man. This had planned to kill me with the first bullet, but he missed the mark and the second failed to explode properly. It jammed in the barrel. I have gone through the war and I have been in motor-car and aeroplane crashes, but these attempts make me forget those things."

"Then he spoke of democracy: 'Democracy is the gorgeous trapping that a rich nation might wear, a nation which can afford luxury in social and economic organisation, a nation with great productive powers. But here, in Italy it is otherwise. We must conserve our energies so as to work to the best advantage. Now we need a dictator to reorganise the nation. We are marching forward. We are producing. We are building. We intend to build a steamer which will travel from Italy to New York in four or five days. It will be the fastest in the world.'

WEATHER REPORT.

The weather report, forecast and remarks, issued last night at 6.45 from the Royal Observatory, stated:—

The anti-cyclone has strengthened. Strong monsoon may be expected along the South-east coast of China and over the China-Sea.

Local forecast:—N.E. winds, fresh, fine.

CRICKET

ARMY v. NAVY.

The following will represent the Army v. Navy on the H.K.C.C. ground on December 28th and 29th—

Capt. S. W. Morris, I.A.S.C. (capt.)
Major Lightfoot, R.A.P.C.
Capt. Dobbie, R.O.S.B.
Capt. Bridgeland, R.C.S.
Lieut. Hankey, R.O.S.B.
Capt. Thorpe, R.O.S.B.
Lieut. Wright, R.A.
Capt. Evers, R.A.P.C.
Capt. Bevis, 5/2 Punjab Regiment.
Lieut. Smith, R.A.
Master-Gunner, Fogden, R.A.

CLUB v. ARMY.

FIRST MATCH OF THE CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT.

Cold though the weather was yesterday morning there was a bright sun and the early promise of a perfect cricketing day was speedily fulfilled. The Club side was completed by Hinton, while Hamilton took the place of J. D. Humphreys who was unable to play. Morris won the toss and elected to bat upon what proved to be an excellent wicket.

A Poor Start.

Bowler and Vallack opened to Hankey and Evers. The former nicked one from Bowker for a single between his legs and the wicket, but played back to Vallack's first ball, and though he appeared to touch it, he was bowled. (1.1.1.). Bridgeland then came in and cut the left-hander for four but later on picked a real good run from the same bowler which pitched on his pads and took the top of the middle stump. Morris then joined Evers and began a stand which was to put on over 150 runs. The batsman played a safe game and Bowler and Vallack bowled well. It is, however, probable that they were kept on a little too long from the tactical point of view, as they kept the batsmen playing the ball all the time. As it was they were on fifty minutes while only about forty runs were scored but the batsmen were set, whereas if a "bit of trifle" had been served up they might have had a go. But it is so easy to be wise after the event!

Sayer and Owen-Hughes went on as first change, but the latter after bowling quite a good first over, developed a series of full tosses which proved expensive. Nor did his successor Hinton do much better, and the score proceeded apace. The batsmen wisely attempted no big hits of Sayer, contenting themselves with big singles along the carpet.

The scoring stopped a little with Bowler and Hamilton on and Evers might have been taken at first slip off the latter when he had scored sixty odd out or 120 on the board. But neither batsman really looked very much like getting out. Hamilton kicked his back and had to leave the field, and Vallack came on in his place. Just before this Evers went down the pitch to Owen Hughes and was stumped by Pearce, though he did not take the ball off at the first time of asking.

Lunch was taken with the score at 193 for 3, but afterwards things went better for the Club. Dobbie hit very prettily but lost Lightfoot, well caught at extra cover by the coolie fielding substitute. Previous to this Morris, who had completed his really excellent hundred before lunch had been run out rather unfortunately through a good bit of combined work between Bowler and Pearce. Vallack then got to work. For four consecutive overs he took a wicket with the last ball; Lightfoot had been caught next over bowled Dobbie with a magnificent ball. Wright was also bowled, and he finished the innings by getting Thorpe with the last ball of the next over and Edmeades and Fogden with the first two of the next. He thus completed his hat-trick and in all took eight wickets for fifty-nine. "It was a really fine performance in an innings of 250, and I don't think I have ever seen him bowl so well."

Hong Kong Bat.

Mitchell and Hayward went just after 3 p.m. to face Dobbie (Navy end) and Hankey. It soon became apparent that it was defence and not defence. Mitchell was bowled at 19 by a beauty from Dobbie, when he had made 10, but Hayward and Owen Hughes proceeded to lay on to the bowling. With the score at 57 Lightfoot came on for Hankey, while Thorpe relieved Dobbie next over. The rate of scoring dropped a little, though both batsmen played pretty cricket. Thorpe was bowling a bit on the leg side and Fogden saved well on several occasions, when the batsman had missed the ball. Hayward was playing very stylish cricket and in one over of Lightfoot took a very pretty four to long-leg and a beauty past cover for a similar number. Next over Thorpe got one past Owen Hughes and took his leg stump. (59.3.2.) The outgoing batsman had played fine forcing cricket for his runs. Dobbie then went on for Lightfoot at the Law Courts end. Thorpe, however, got the next wicket bowling Sayer with one to which he played back. The ball seemed to come across from leg and take the off stump. The score had not been mounting so rapidly at this period, and Lightfoot relieved Thorpe. Pearce over-drove the new-comer for four, while Hayward, who before this had completed his fifty, got a beautiful off-drive to the boundary off Dobbie, a shot which he repeated a couple of overs later. With 150 on the board Wright relieved Lightfoot at the Naval Yard, bowling a shade over medium. Pearce was batting very steadily but with 170 on the board he gave a chance off Dobbie at second slip which was smartly taken by Wright. The pair had put on 61 in fifty minutes. (170.4.24.)

At this time it developed rather into a race with the clock, with the Club behind, and always with the possibility of a collapse, as their last four batsmen were not exactly first-class. Hayward got a four to long-leg off Wright and Hancock got Dobbie for four in the same place. However, he tried to hit a straight one in the same over and was l.b.w. (190.5.3.) Hankey went on again at the other end but the next wicket came from Dobbie who, to the great disappointment of the spectators got a good one past Hayward when he was only six short of his century. (188.6.04.)

The only thing that then seemed possible was that there would be a draw, unless the Army won. And subsequent events rather looked like the latter. Bowker was l.b.w. to Dobbie and Vallack was bowled. Eight for 190 and about twenty minutes to go.

The Catastrophe.

I use the above word strictly in its Greek sense. Hinton went in with fifty odd needed, and only Hamilton, who was cricketer, to come in. He then proceeded to lay about him. One cannot describe his batting as classical. It reminded one rather of bringing home the Yule log, than of wielding the willow. But—and a very big "but"—he connected. He and Gardner proceeded to hit everything served up to them extraordinarily hard. The light had failed, and the only man who could see very much of the ball was the man who had it against the screen. There seems to have been some doubt about a six, hit by Hinton, but it did not make very much difference. It was signalled and scored, and when one ball was left to go, the scores were a tie at 250 each. Hinton despatched that last ball for four and a most unexpected victory was gained by the Club.

Notes on the Play.

The result of the match is in some ways unsatisfactory, although too much praise cannot be given to the magnificent effort of Hinton and Gardner at the end. It had been arranged to play to 5.45 p.m. but the light for the last quarter of an hour was impossible for the fielders. On the other hand had one of the two successful batsmen been out, it is very doubtful if Hamilton in his injured condition could have survived a ball or two.

Morris, who has been on the injured list for some time, played a very safe innings; he was not dropped at all. Evers though on two occasions he might have been caught, was very safe. The palm, however, in the batting line goes to "Tom" Hayward, whose 94 was a really beautiful knock, polished yet forceful.

Dobbie hit very safely, and he was the mainstay of the attack. He reminds me very strongly of Tennyson's Brook, for apparently he can go on for ever! The rest of the Army bowling, except perhaps Thorpe, was not very convincing. Vallack bowled better than he has done for a long time, and has good reason to be pleased with his bowling in the game.

The Club fielding on the whole was good, though there was one individual rather at fault. There is no excuse for not getting behind the ball if you have time. Mitchell in the long field did a tremendous amount of work, while Bevis, for the Army, was always working. Pearce, behind the stumps, is I think much better than Fogden, though admittedly he did not have to cope with the bad light at the end.

R. ABBIT.

Full score and analysis:—

FIRST INNINGS OF THE ARMY.

Capt. Evers, R.A.P.C., st. Pearce, 73
b Owen Hughes
Lt. Hankey, R.O.S.B., b Vallack 1
Capt. Bridgeland, R.C.S., b Vallack 4
Capt. Morris, I.A.S.C., run out 105
Capt. Dobbie, R.O.S.B., b Vallack 41
Lt. Wright, R.A., b Vallack 0
Major Lightfoot, R.A.P.C., c sub, 0
b Vallack
Capt. Thorpe, R.O.S.B., b Vallack 11
Capt. Bevis, 5/2 Punjab Regt., not out 9
Col. Edmeades, R.A., b Vallack 3
Master-Gunner Fogden, R.A., b Vallack 6
Byes 2, l.b. 1, wides, n.b. 1

Total 250
Bowling Analysis.
O. M. R. W.
A. C. I. Bowler 21 0 79 0
G. R. Vallack 17.2 1 59 8
C. R. Sayer 7.2 1 29 0
H. Owen Hughes 7.2 43 1
J. R. Hinton 3 0 15 0
F. W. Hamilton 5 0 15 0
*Bowled 1 no ball.
*Bowled 1 wide.
Fall of the wickets:—1 for 1; 2 for 13; 3 for 170; 4 for 210; 5 for 210; 6 for 214; 7 for 235; 8 for 248; 9 for 250; 10 for 250.

FIRST INNINGS OF H.K.C.C.
A. W. Hayward, b Dobbie 94
E. J. R. Mitchell, b Dobbie 10
H. Owen Hughes, b Thorpe 32
G. R. Sayer, b Thorpe 8
T. E. Pearce, c Wright, b Dobbie 24
H. R. B. Hancock, l.b.w., b Dobbie 5
G. F. Gardner, not out 23
A. C. I. Bowler, l.b.w., b Dobbie 4
G. R. Vallack, b Dobbie 4
J. R. Hinton, not out 32
F. W. Hamilton did not bat.
Byes 20, l.b. 3

Total (for 8 wickets) 254
Bowling Analysis.
O. M. R. W.
Capt. Dobbie 24 4 71 6
Lt. Hankey 10 0 65 0
Major Lightfoot 9 0 55 0
Capt. Thorpe 8 1 22 2
Lt. Wright 4 0 15 0
Fall of the wickets:—1 for 19; 2 for 95; 3 for 109; 4 for 170; 5 for 180; 6 for 189; 7 for 193; 8 for 199.

KOWLOON C.C. v. ROYAL NAVY.

A whole day match commencing at 10.45 a.m. played on the Kowloon Cricket Club between the above resulted in a creditable victory for the Royal Navy. Kowloon batted all the morning and were eventually dismissed for 174 runs. Brace being top scorer with 51 runs. Lt. Col. Cantrell secured the first eight Kowloon wickets. Lt. Col. Beatty took the other two in his nineteenth over. The Royal Navy commenced their innings at 2.30 p.m. and scored so rapidly that they passed Kowloon's total at 3.33 p.m. for three wickets. Lt. Col. Cantrell played a faultless innings of 83. The Navy side went on to make a total of 272.

Scores:—
KOWLOON C.C.
W. Brace, b Cantrell 51
A. W. Fincher, c Venn, b Cantrell 42
E. C. Fincher, b Cantrell 7
F. E. Lawrence, st. Venn, b Cantrell 7
E. F. Fincher, b Cantrell 0
J. C. Lyl, c Woodward, b Cantrell 23
F. Goodwin, b Cantrell 0
W. Guest, l.b.w. b Cantrell 0
S. Jex, not out 10
R. E. Lindell, b Beatty 11
N. H. Ross, b Beatty 0
Extras 21

Total 174
Bowling Analysis.
O. M. R. W.
Cantrell 19 4 41 8
Beatty 18.4 4 33 2
Woodward 5 0 18 0
Tighe 3 1 11 0
Sturges 3 0 23 0
Shaw 1 0 3 0
*Bowled 2 wides.

ROYAL NAVY.
Pay-Lt. J. A. Hussey, c Brace, b Lyl 18
Lt. Col. A. Cantrell, b Ross 63
Lt. E. Brewerton, c Lyl, b Ross 30
Pay-Lt. Comdr. A. P. Shaw, c Pay-Lt. C. Fincher, b Lawrence 60
Rev. R. T. Venn, c and b Goodwin 39
Pay-Comdr. H. W. Woodward, retired hurt 12
Lt. F. C. Emley, l.b.w. Lyl 12
Lt. G. Sturges, run out 21
Lt. J. M. Sparks, c Brace, b Ramsay 4
St-Lt. Tighe, run out 0
Lt-Comdr. T. R. Beatty, not out 3
Extras 10

Total 272
Bowling Analysis.
O. M. R. W.
Goodwin 17 1 72 1
Lyl 20 8 51 2
Brace 4 0 25 0
Ross 7 0 45 2
E. F. Fincher 5.3 0 20 1
Lawrence 3 0 16 0
Ramsay 1 0 5 1

RECREIO v. VOLUNTEERS.

In a whole day match at Kowloon, the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps beat the Club de Recreio at King's Park. Each side had two innings.

Scores:—
VOLUNTEERS.
1st Innings.
Burgess, b Marques 17
Nicholson, b Pinna 2
Standage, b Alves 0
Armstrong, b Pinna 20
Evans, c and b Marques 9
Plummer, b Pinna 2
Summers, c Carvalho, b Alves 30
Buxton, l.b.w. b Alves 5
Dand, run out 27
Renton, not out 5
Wales, c Gutierrez, b Pinna 1
Extras 6

Total 109
Bowling Analysis.
O. M. R. W.
Pinna 13 1 35 4
Marques 14 3 25 2
Gutierrez 5 2 17 0
Alves 6 0 23 3
*Bowled 1 no ball.

2nd Innings.
Standage, c Sousa, b Pinna 17
Armstrong, b Pinna 3
Renton, c Barros, b Pinna 0
Wales, run out 0
Buxton, c L. Lopes, b Marques 0
Dand, not out 6
Evans, b Gutierrez 16
Extras 11

Total 70
Nicholson, Burgess, Plummer and Summers did not bat.
Bowling Analysis.
O. M. R. W.
Pinna 7 2 17 3
Marques 7 0 36 2
Gutierrez 1 0 6 1

1st Innings.
H. M. Xavier, b Summers 5
H. A. Alves, c Renton, b Wales 17
M. F. Pinna, b Summers 0
F. H. Carvalho, b Wales 12
C. H. A. Barros, b Wales 0
C. E. Marques, b Summers 0
D. F. Lopes, not out 15
E. Sousa, b Wales 0
J. W. Barros, c Buxton, b Renton 4
D. C. Alves, c Burgess, b Summers 2
A. P. Gutierrez, b Wales 0
Extras 5

Total 61
Bowling Analysis.
O. M. R. W.
Plummer 2 0 10 0
Summers 12 3 22 4
Wales 3 2 14 5
Burgess 2 0 7 0
Renton 2.2 0 13 1
*Bowled 1 no ball.
2nd Innings.
J. Barnes, b Summers 20
A. P. Gutierrez, l.b.w. b Evans 0
M. Pinna, st. Nicholson, b Wales 11
H. Barros, b Wales 4
H. A. Xavier, st. Nicholson, b E. Sousa, b Wales 10
E. Sousa, b Wales 8
H. A. Alves, not out 12
Extras 5

Total 76
Marques, Carvalho, D. C. Alves and D. F. Lopes did not bat.
(Continued on next Column).

FOOTBALL.

"SUNDAY HERALD" CHARITY CUP COMPETITION.

CHINA BEAT THE HOLDERS.

Never was the need of a stadium for Hong Kong so evident as on Xmas Day when hundreds had to be turned away from the stands and various charities will suffer accordingly. Differences of opinions were heard on the H.K.F.A. staging a game for Christmas afternoon but the Association were justified by the attendance. All China seemed to be there and several hundreds were in the stands before noon, although the game was timed to start at 3.45 p.m. Had accommodation been available another five hundred dollars would have been added to the gate receipts.

Every space overlooking the playing fields was taken up by Chinese spectators. Portugal fielded the first eleven of the Club de Recreio and China was represented by a team from the S.C.A.A. and China Athletic. It was one that would be hard to beat by any combination in the Colony. Wong Sau Wai as the pivot played a brainy game and the two wing halves gave the Portuguese forwards little time to settle down. Choi Kwai Sing on China's right wing was the best forward on the field and the first goal was the outcome of a burst-down the wing and a well timed centre, Sun Kum Shun putting on the finishing touch. Gosano was all over the field, and tired himself by unnecessary running about for the Portugal defence was quite capable of doing their bit. P. Xavier was good but Choi Kwai Sing, who scored the second goal with a neat shot was a good deal better. China will now meet Scotland, the winners of the match England v. Scotland.

YESTERDAY'S MATCHES.

SCOTLAND 3; ENGLAND 1.

Playing in the "Sunday Herald" Charity Cup competition on the Hong Kong F.C. ground, Scotland beat England by three goals to one and qualified to meet China in the final. The game was nothing like so good as that on Xmas Day game. About a third of the Xmas

Bowling Analysis.

O. M. R. W.
Armstrong 2 0 13 0
Evans 2 0 12 1
Summers 4 0 21 1
Wales 6 1 15 4
Burgess 2 1 5 0

CRAIGENGOWER: CARRIED v. SINGLES.

The annual match between married and single members of the Craigenower Club was played yesterday and resulted in a draw. The married men batted first and made 213 runs for 3 wickets. declared. C. C. Omar scored 64, A. Kitchell 87 not out, Grimes 86 and Bookier 14. The bachelors had made 138 runs for 3 wickets when stumps were drawn. O. Ismail 33, J. Leonard 16, R. Bass 10, A. B. Hanson 34 not out, F. Schnepel 1 and S. Abbas 21 were the contributors. Y. Abbas (married) took 2 wickets for 15 runs.

HONG KONG ELECTRIC CO.

The Indian and European staff met in a match yesterday at Sookpoo on the Indian Recreation Club ground. The former won.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES.

CAPT. DOBBIE'S XI. v. T. E. PEARCE'S XI.

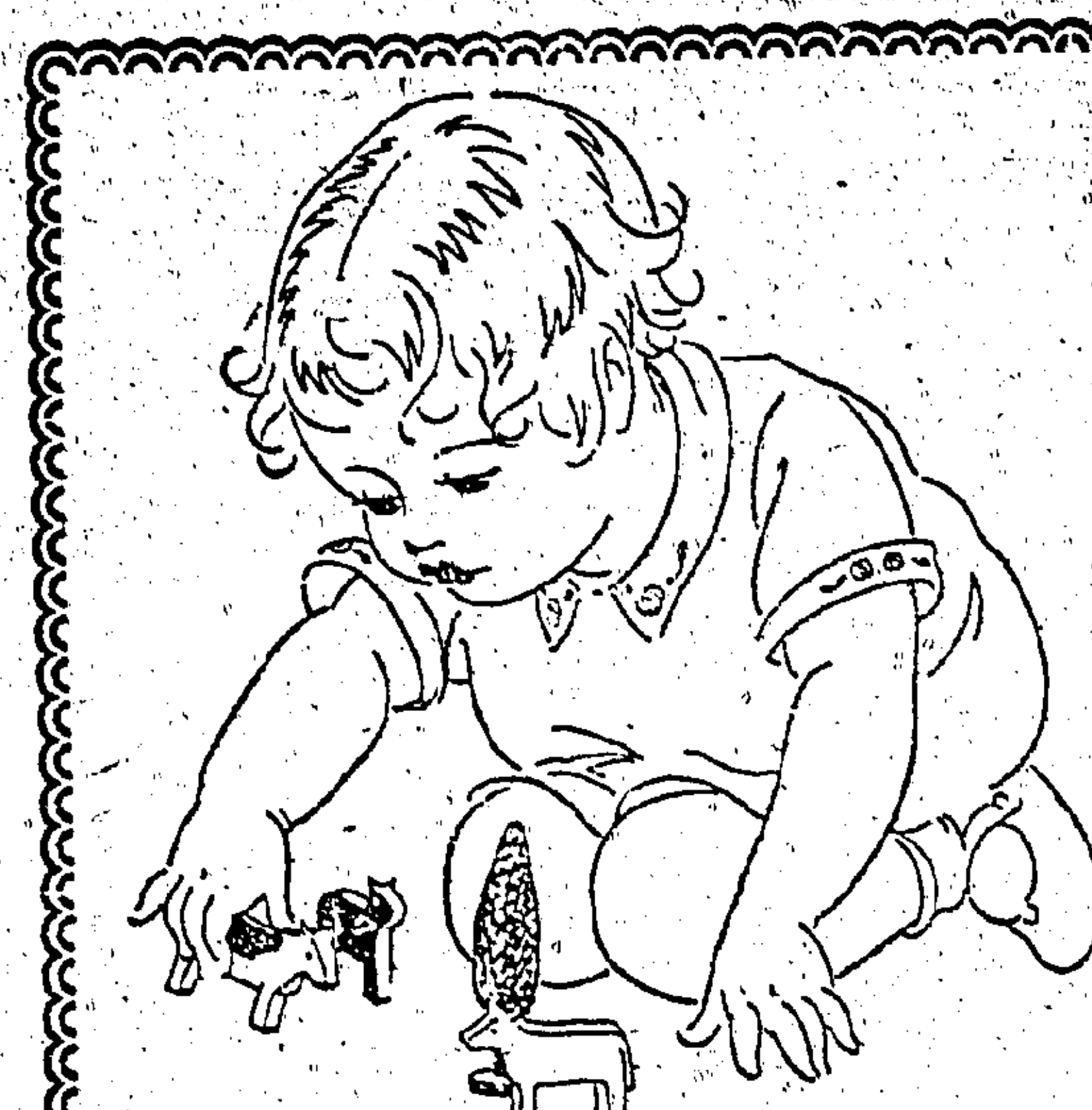
On Christmas Day, two teams selected from members of the Hong Kong Cricket Club and captained respectively by Capt. Dobbie and T. E. Pearce, played a friendly match in the afternoon. The latter's team batted first and made 177 runs to which Capt. Dobbie's side replied with 146 runs for 6 wickets. The match was drawn. For Mr. Pearce's side Webb-Bowen was highest scorer with 146 runs, and others to reach double figures were Mitchell 28, Lt. Brewerton 15 and Summers, 20, and the captain himself made 29 (retired). Major Lightfoot took 3 wickets for 51 runs and Benson and Garnon-Williams 2 each. For the other side Newall and Ling, who were both not out, when stumps were drawn. Their scores were 36 and 30 respectively. Major Lightfoot made 21 and Capt. Thorpe 10. There were 23 extras. Parker took 4 wickets for 18 runs and Capt. Perfect and Duncan 1 wicket each. Capt. Dobbie, Lt. Hankey, Hinton and Vallack did not bat.

Chinese R.O. v. H.M.S. "Hawking."

Following up their victory over the Craigenower three weeks ago, the Hawking beat the Chinese Recreation Club on the latter's ground. The Chinese were the first to bat and completed 132 of which opening batsmen C. Choa and Lee contributed 50 and 21 respectively. Ng Sze Kwong made 19, Hung 12 and Cheong Wing Kue 21. Gardner took wickets for 23 runs, and Noble and Stempt 2 each. The naval side in reply scored 135 runs for 5 wickets. Beasley was not out with 63, Binn made 24, Erik 11 and Croach 18. Ng Sze Kwong took 3 wickets for 41 runs and Lee and Hung 1 each.

I.E.C. v. Indian Ambulance Corps.

The Indian section of the St. John's Ambulance Corps and the first eleven of the Indian Recreation Club played a drawn match at Sookpoo on Sunday. Batting first the Club compiled 158, of which S. A. B. Ismail contributed 76, S. A. Ismail 18 and J. S. Ackler 12. There were 21 "extras." Curram and A. el Arculli (Ambulance Corps) took 8 and 1 wickets respectively. The Ambulance Corps replied with 70 runs for 4 wickets. A. H. Rumiab made 28 not out and A. el Arculli made 14. F. M. el Arculli (I.E.C.) took 2 wickets for 8 runs. The Indian Club tried eight bowlers.



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LAWN BOWLS.

NEW YEAR MATCH BETWEEN ST. ANDREW'S AND ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETIES

On New Year's Day the lawn bowls match on the Kowloon Bowling Green Club grounds will be St. Andrew's v. St. George's Society.

GOLF.

The Christmas meeting at Fanling extending from Christmas Eve until yesterday, has now been concluded. Results, however, will not be available until to-day or to-morrow.

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

SHANGHAI	"TAIPEI"	On 15th Dec.	Noon.
SHANGHAI	"SHANGHAI"	On 15th Dec.	4 p.m.
WUHAIR, CHEFOO & TIENTSIN	"HUICHOW"	On 16th Dec.	8 a.m.
SWATOW & BANGKOK	"KIANGSU"	On 16th Dec.	10 a.m.
SWATOW & BANGKOK	"YINGCHOW"	On 17th Dec.	Noon.
AMOI & SHANGHAI	"SHANTUNG"	On 17th Dec.	6 a.m.
AMOI & SHANGHAI	"ANKING"	On 18th Dec.	6 a.m.
SWATOW & BANGKOK	"SOOCHOW"	On 19th Dec.	6 a.m.
HOHANG & HAIPHONG	"TEAN"	On 19th Dec.	Noon.
SHANGHAI	"SINKIANG"	On 1st Jan.	6 a.m.
SWATOW & BANGKOK	"LIANGCHOW"	On 2nd Jan.	6 a.m.
AMOI & SHANGHAI	"ANTUNG"	On 2nd Jan.	6 a.m.
SWATOW & BANGKOK	"KIANGCHOW"	On 2nd Jan.	10 a.m.
AMOI & SHANGHAI	"SUICHOW"	On 4th Jan.	6 a.m.
BANGKOK	"KWEIYANG"	On 5th Jan.	6 a.m.

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Shipping News

Daily Statement, Ships in Harbour, Vessels Expected, etc.

THE HOME MAIL.

CHRISTMAS LETTERS AND PARCELS.

The Christmas mail from Home arrived early yesterday morning on the P. & O. s.s. *Kalyan*. The steamer was originally due here two days before Christmas, but she was delayed in Singapore and then again by the strong monsoon. Her arrival was timed for 10 a.m. on Sunday, but she failed to arrive until early yesterday morning.

No less than 628 bags of letters and papers were landed here (against 600 bags last year on the *Kalyan*). Of this number 11 bags were from the United Kingdom (against 133 bags last year). The total mail for Hong Kong, including Continental and Straits was 133. The remainder of the mail discharged here is for transportation to Canton and outports, etc.

The parcels brought numbered 1,515, as against 2,101 last year. The letters were all sorted and sent out yesterday by special delivery at noon and 4 p.m.; while the parcels will be ready for collection this morning.

SHANGHAI'S NEW PILOT SHIP.

THE S.S. "HSIN YANGTZE" LAUNCHED AT POOTUNG.

The following account of the launching at the Pootung Shipyard of the Shanghai Dock and Engineering Company of the Shanghai Pilot Boat Company's new steamer *Hsin Yangtze*, appears in a *N.C. Daily News* to hand.

Mrs. A. Hosson, wife of the local Harbour Master, performed the ceremony and the newly christened vessel glided smoothly down the slip-wars into the water without a hitch.

This part of the ceremony over the guests assembled in the rooms in Messrs. Boyd & Co.'s building where champagne and cakes were served and the health of the *Hsin Yangtze* proposed.

Hopes for the Future.

Mr. H. W. Lester, chairman of the Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., builders of the vessel, spoke on behalf of that Company. "The *Hsin Yangtze* so successfully launched," he said, "marks a further step in the progress of this port. Built under Lloyd's special survey for their highest classification she is 150 feet long overall and 34 feet in breadth. She is to be fitted with modern triple expansion engines of over 1,200 horse-power and in addition to this no less than 15 sets of independent steam engines are fitted for the different auxiliary requirements. Many of you present can look back about 25 years when the pilot service was maintained here by sailing schooners, and when the first steam pilot boat came into service in 1902 and the second, the *Yangtze*, in 1908 it was felt that the last word was said. But Shanghai was just beginning to open out and now with the *Hsin Yangtze* (or new), *Yangtze* I think that most of us agree that the present and near future is well provided for."

"During the construction of the vessel we have had a great many difficulties to contend with including the disastrous coal strike in Britain and civil wars and other troubles very near our own doors, but I hope our efforts to carry out this contract without undue delay will appeal to our friends, the Shanghai Pilot Boat Co. It is the first large vessel we have built for them and while they may not be in the market in the near future we trust the results will justify our hope that the next vessel will be built in the same berth as this one."

Toast to New Ship.

Mr. Lester then proposed the health of the new ship and her owners, and a reply was made on behalf of the Shanghai Pilot Boat Co. by Capt. George Philip, secretary of the Company. He toasted the builders and this was replied to by Mr. W. S. Burns, Managing Director of the Dock Company, who also proposed the health of Mrs. Hosson and asked her to accept as a small souvenir of her kind assistance a beautiful bouquet of carnations and a gold combined mesh bag and vanity case. Mr. Hosson replied for his wife.

Mr. Lester also proposed the health of the guests coupled with the name of Mr. F. W. Mase who in his reply.

Mr. F. E. H. Groeman, Consul-General for the Netherlands and Consul Representative on the Pilot Board, also spoke and wished prosperous times to the Pilot Association.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET IN HONG KONG.

FOR DECEMBER, 1926.

(STANDARD TIME OF 120TH MERIDIAN OF GREENWICH.)

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
December 28th	7.01 a.m.	5.47 p.m.
" 29th	7.02 "	5.46 "
" 30th	7.02 "	5.45 "
" 31st	7.03 "	5.49 "

WEEK-END STATEMENTS.

General merchandise carried by the ten steamers which came into port during the 24 hours ended on Saturday were below the average. There were only 3,329 tons of general cargo landed here, all of which was in 4 British vessels.

For ports beyond Hong Kong there were 3,310 tons. These were manifested on 9 vessels, three British steamers being responsible for 2,435 tons.

Sunday Reports.

Of the 10 arrivals during the 24 hours ended on Sunday, 9 vessels unloaded here. The total tonnage discharged, although below the average, was better than on the previous day. Of the 6,049 tons of general cargo landed here, 2,180 tons were from 4 British vessels. Through cargo was manifested on 1 steamer and amounted to 19,811 tons. The s.s. *Olderkerk* (Dutch), from Kobe and Shanghai had 7,017 tons and the British vessel *Terentia*, from Glasgow and Singapore, 4,277 tons.

Yesterday's Returns.

Returns for the 24 hours ended at 9 a.m. yesterday show that imports into the Colony were up to the average. This was mainly due to the heavy freights carried by British vessels. Out of the 7 arrivals, 6 vessels discharged a total of 15,492 tons here, of which 13,567 tons were unloaded from 4 British vessels. The best returns were shown by the s.s. *Leverbank* (British), which brought 3,002 tons from Peru.

Through freights were manifested on 4 vessels. The total tonnage carried was 4,810 tons, of which 31 tons was on 1 British vessel.

The total number of deck passengers entered into the colony during the week-end was 2,275, of which 1,987 were landed here during the 24 hours ended at 9 a.m. on Saturday. The Sunday returns showed 502 and yesterday's returns gave the figure as 84.

Dangerous goods manifested on the s.s. *Rhein* were 300 cans formaldehyde and 169 casks of turpentine from European ports; and on the s.s. *Isitiki* were five tons acetic acid and 120 tons safety matches shipped through from Japanese ports.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

The following notices to mariners have been issued by the local authorities under date December 28th:—

- Information has been received from the Naval Authorities to the effect that experimental moorings will be laid in the following positions, from Wednesday, December 28th to about Wednesday, January 26th:—
- (a) 27° 15.8 cables from Green Island Lighthouse.
- (b) 33° 5.6 cables from Tabe Island North Extreme at entrance to Port Shelter.
- (c) 90° 10 cables from Cape Colinson Lighthouse.

GUARDING EMPIRE SEA ROUTES.

IMPORTANCE OF THE CRUISER.

The importance of cruisers in the general administration and maintenance of the British Empire was strongly emphasized by Capt. H. G. Thursfield, R.N., in the course of a recent lecture on "The Functions of the Cruiser in Relation to Imperial Needs," which he delivered at the Royal United Service Institution, London.

Capt. Thursfield, who explained that he was not concerned with the political controversy which rages around the question of cruisers, said everyone agreed that the maintenance of our sea communications was vital both to the security of the Empire and for the sustenance of the people of these islands. In that great work the cruiser would play a leading part in the future, as it had done in the past.

"But," asked Capt. Thursfield, "what is a cruiser? The question is not simple as it seems. When I searched Admiralty documents for a definition the only one I could find was that a cruiser is 'A craft specially designed for cruiser duties,' which reminds one of Bishop Wilberforce's definition of an archdeacon as 'One who performs archidiaconal functions.' During the last 20 years the word cruiser has been applied to anything, from a coastguard cruiser of 30 tons armed with rifles to the Hood of 40,000 tons armed with 15-inch guns.

The lecturer quoted from wartime experiences to show that the ordinary functions of a cruiser could be performed by any type of war vessels.

Imperial Aspect.

Discussing the Imperial aspect of the problem, Capt. Thursfield pointed out that the British Empire was in an entirely different position from that of any other nation with regard to naval forces. "It is generally true that no estimate of the naval needs of a nation can be made without first ascertaining who is to be the enemy, but that axiom is not true of the British Empire which, by reason of its widespread sea communications, requires a certain minimum of naval power in any war that may arise.

The object of British effort, he argued, was threefold—to maintain our ocean communications, to keep intact our mercantile marine and to maintain London as the financial centre of the world. If these three indispensable conditions of our Imperial existence were impinged upon the Empire would collapse.

SHIPPING NOTE.

It is notified in the *Government Gazette* that Cape D'Agulhar Wireless Station will resume the 600 metre service to ships at sea on December 31st, at 1600 G.M.T.

INDO-CHINA

STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATIONS.

TSINGTAU via SWATOW & SHANGHAI	"YATSHING"	Wednesday, 29th Dec.	at 7 a.m.
CANTON	"FOOSHING"	Wednesday, 29th Dec.	at 10 a.m.
SWATOW & CALCUTTA	"LAISANG"	Thursday, 30th Dec.	at 3 p.m.
TIENTSIN	"CHIPSING"	Saturday, 1st Jan.	at 7 a.m.
HAIPHONG via HOIHOW & SHANGHAI	"MINGSANG"	Saturday, 1st Jan.	at 9 a.m.
TSINGTAU via SWATOW & SHANGHAI	"FOOSHING"	Sunday, 2nd Jan.	at 7 a.m.
SWATOW & CALCUTTA	"HOSANG"	Monday, 3rd Jan.	at 3 p.m.
SANDAKAN	"HINSANG"	Monday, 10th Jan.	at 2 p.m.
OSAKA via MOJI & KOBE	"FOOSHANG"	Tuesday, 11th Jan.	at 7 a.m.
TIENTSIN	"CHIPSANG"	Friday, 14th Jan.	at Noon
OSAKA via MOJI & KOBE	"KITSANG"	Tuesday, 15th Jan.	at 7 a.m.
SWATOW & CALCUTTA	"KI MSANG"	Thursday, 20th Jan.	at 7 a.m.
SANDAKAN	"MAUSANG"	Friday, 25th Jan.	at 1 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to—
JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.
GENERAL MANAGERS.
Telephone: Central No. 217.

GLEN AND SHIRE

JOINT SERVICE OF STEAMERS.
U.K.—STRAITS, CHINA & JAPAN SERVICE.

OUTWARDS.	HOMEWARDS.
Vessel Due Hong Kong.	Vessel Discharges Leaves H. Kong.
"GLENIFFER" ... 8th Jan.	"GLENARA" ... 30th Dec.
"GLENOGLE" ... 20th Jan.	L'don, B'dam & H'burg via Oran.
"GLENAMORY" ... 8th Feb.	"GLENHILL" ... 20th Jan.
"GLENHARRY" ... 17th Feb.	L'don, B'dam & H'burg via Oran.
"GLENAPP" ... 2nd Mar.	"GLENIFFER" ... 23rd Feb.
"GLENLUCE" ... 20th Mar.	L'don, B'dam & H'burg via Oran.

Movements are subject to change without notice.
For Freight or further Particulars, please apply to—
JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,
THE GLEN LINE, LTD., AGENTS.
Telephones: Central No. 215 sub-er. 23, and Central 3896.

DODWELL & CO., LTD

NEW YORK BERTH.
LOADING FOR BOSTON AND NEW YORK via SUEZ.

LLOYD TRIESTINO.

REGULAR MONTHLY PASSENGER AND FREIGHT SERVICE FOR BRINDISI, VENICE AND TRIESTE (FUME).
TAKING CARGO ON THROUGH BILLS OF LADING TO GENOA, ALL ITALIAN, ADRIATIC, LEVANT, BLACK SEA AND DANUBE PORTS.
REDUCED PASSAGE RATES TO BRINDISI, VENICE OR TRIESTE
"A" CLASS: £72. 10s. 0d. "B" CLASS: £66. 0s. 0d.

NEXT SAILINGS.

OUTWARDS FOR SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA, KOBE AND MOJI

From Hong Kong.
M.V. "ROMOLO" ... Sails on or about 6th January, 1927
M.V. "VIMINALE" ... Sails on or about 3rd February, 1927

HOMEWARDS FOR BRINDISI, VENICE AND TRIESTE

From Hong Kong.
S.S. "VENEZIA" ... Sails on or about 7th January, 1927
M.V. "ROMOLO" ... Sails on or about 4th February, 1927
M.V. "VIMINALE" ... Sails on or about 4th March, 1927

NATAL LINE OF STEAMERS

FROM CALCUTTA AND COLOMBO TO SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.

"UMZUMBI" ... Sails from Calcutta End of December.
"UMSINGA" ... Sails from Calcutta 31st January.

Regular Passenger and Cargo Service to South African Ports. Through Bills of Lading issued from Hong Kong.

For Freight or Passage on any of the above Lines, apply to—
DODWELL & CO., LIMITED.
Telephone: Central 1030. Agents.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LIMITED.

HONG KONG & SOUTH CHINA COAST PORT SERVICE.

REGULAR SERVICE OF Fast, High Class Coast Steamers. Sailings subject to alteration without notice.

SWATOW, AMOI & FOOSHOW AND RETURN.

(Occupying 8 to 9 Days)

HAICHING ... Friday, 31st December, at 1 p.m.
Calling at Swatow for Passengers only.

HAIPHONG ... Tuesday, 4th January, at 1 p.m.

* Arrivals and Departures from the Company's Wharf (near H.K. Pier). Round Trip Tickets will be issued from Hong Kong to Foochow (Pagoda Anchorage) or vice versa and Return by the same Steamer at the Reduced Rate of \$20.00 including Meals while the Steamer is in Port.
For Freight and Passage apply to—
DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & CO.,
General Managers.

PRINCE LINE

IMPROVED SERVICE

BY FAST MOTOR VESSELS TO

BOSTON NEW YORK

PHILADELPHIA

M.V. "JAPANESE PRINCE" ... 4th January, 1927

For Freight and Full Particulars, apply to—
FURNESS (FAR EAST), LIMITED.
(Incorporated in Great Britain)

Telephone: Central 3165. King's Building.

THE SWEDISH EAST ASIATIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

SERVICE OF FAST MOTOR VESSELS

LOADING DIRECT FOR MARSEILLES, VALENCIA, ROTTERDAM, HAMBURG AND SCANDINAVIAN PORTS.

M.V. "AGRA" ... Loading about 5th January, 1927
M.V. "FORMOSA" ... 25th January, 1927
M.V. "CANTON" ... 28th February, 1927

FOR SHANGHAI AND JAPAN PORTS.

M.V. "CANTON" ... Loading about 21st January, 1927

For further particulars, apply to the Agents—
GIJMAN & CO., LTD. G.E. HUYGEN,
Hong Kong. Canton.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

INWARD MAILS.

FROM	PER	DUE
JAPAN...	St. Albans	25th Dec.
MANILA...	Pres. Jefferson	25th Dec.
STRAITS...	Pres. Jefferson	25th Dec.
SHANGHAI & EUROPE via SIBERIA...	Emp. of Canada	25th Dec.
MANILA...	Pres. Jefferson	25th Dec.
JAPAN and SHANGHAI...	Pres. Jefferson	25th Dec.
U.S.A., CANADA, JAPAN & SHANGHAI...	Pres. Jefferson	25th Dec.
U.S.A., HONOLULU, JAPAN & SHANGHAI...	Pres. Jefferson	25th Dec.
U.S.A., HONOLULU, JAPAN & SHANGHAI...	Pres. Jefferson	25th Dec.
JAPAN and SHANGHAI...	Pres. Jefferson	25th Dec.

OUTWARD MAILS.

FOR	PER	DATE
Saigon and Bangkok...	Kohao Maru	Tuesday, 28th
Swatow, Amoy and Foochow...	Hui Ning	28th
Straits, Ceylon, India, Mauritius, E. & S. Africa, Egypt & EUROPE via Marseilles—due Marseilles, 28th Jan., 1927...	Autolycus	28th
Shanghai...	Cyclops	28th
Swatow...	Yatung	28th
Straits & Calcutta...	Shirala	28th
Wednesday, 29th		
Saigon...	Typhoon	29th
Swatow, Amoy and Formosa...	Kohao Maru	29th
Straits...	Glenara	29th
Thursday, 30th		
Hohow and Haiphong...	Tea	30th
Batavia...	Typhoon	30th
Straits and Calcutta...	Lai Sang	30th
Friday, 31st		
Shanghai, Japan, Canada, U.S.A., C. & S. America & EUROPE via Victoria, B.C.—due Victoria, B.C., 18th Jan., 1927, & EUROPE via Siberia (letters and postcards specially superscribed "Via Siberia" only)...	Pres. Jefferson	31st
Manila, Australia & New Zealand...	St. Albans	31st
Thursday Island—due Thursday Island, 18th Jan., 1927...	St. Albans	31st
Saturday, 1st		
Swatow, Amoy and Foochow...	Hoi Oing	1st
Hohow and Haiphong...	Hoi Oing	1st
Shanghai...	Sinwang	1st
Sunday, 2nd		
Straits, Ceylon, India, Mauritius, E. & S. Africa, Egypt & EUROPE via Marseilles—due Marseilles, 30th Jan., 1927...	Hakone Maru	2nd
Swatow...	Foohing	2nd
Monday, 3rd		
Straits and Calcutta...	Hoi Oing	3rd
Tuesday, 4th		
Swatow, Amoy and Foochow...	Hoi Oing	4th
Straits, Ceylon, India, Mauritius, E. & S. Africa, Egypt & EUROPE via Marseilles—due Marseilles, 4th Feb., 1927...	Amoy	4th
Swatow...	Amoy	4th
Wednesday, 5th		
Straits, Ceylon, India, Mauritius, E. & S. Africa, Egypt & EUROPE via Marseilles—due Marseilles, 4th Feb., 1927...	Amoy	5th
Swatow...	Amoy	5th

*Correspondence bearing vessel's name only.

COMMERCIAL.

OPENING QUOTATIONS.

December 24th, 1926.

ON LONDON.—	Telegraphic Transfer	1/11
	Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 3/16
	Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
	Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11
	Credits, at months' sight	2/0 3/16
	Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/0 5/16.
ON PARIS.—	Bank Bills, on demand	1/165
	Credits, 4 months' sight	1/165
ON NEW YORK.—	Bank Bills, on demand	45
	Credits, at 30 days' sight	45
ON BOMBAY.—	Telegraphic Transfer	1/11
	Bank Bills, on demand	1/11
ON CALCUTTA.—	Telegraphic Transfer	1/11
	Bank Bills, on demand	1/11
ON SHANGHAI.—	Bank Bills, at sight	nom.
	Private, 30 days' sight	95
ON YOKOHAMA.—	On demand	85
ON MANILA.—	On demand	85
ON SINGAPORE.—	On demand	85
ON BATAVIA.—	On demand	1/164
ON HONGKONG.—	On demand	nom.
ON AMOY.—	On demand	nom.
ON RANGOON.—	On demand	90
	SOVEREIGN, Bank's Buying rate	1/16.10
	GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	—
	SILVER, per oz.	24 1/16